

FANFARE!

Expanding the Contributors' List

This issue of FANFARE! has many contributors. They will be describing their gardening experiences, successful techniques, personal backgrounds and more. The value of this level of variance of experience and approach is to give each member a forum where they can share their gardening and daylily growing journey. Hopefully, this will then help our readers plan their own 2018 gardening activities, perhaps trying new ways to achieve garden excellence.

As your editor, I suppose I should start the ball rolling. I would like to share my experience with the plant

growth hormone *Triac-natrol*.

The use of this plant hormone is very common among those gardeners who are rose growers engaging in competitive programs with other growers. It can be obtained easily from the internet or farm stores. It is found naturally in alfalfa, and a 40-50lb bag of alfalfa pellets fed to pet rabbits is easily obtained from a farm store. While not expensive, 40 lb of alfalfa pellets will last a while, so a partner may be useful.

I put 1/4 cup mixed in soil around a new bare root plant. Established clumps get up to a full cup or more

mixed in soil over the roots each spring. When not diluted properly with soil, the Triac-natrol can heat up when moisture is available and actually kill a bare root plant.



'Harold Steen'
Korth P. & L. 2013

I always enjoy using my namesake daylily to fill in empty areas in issues of FANFARE!

Daylily Society
of SouthEast
Wisconsin

FANFARE!

April 2018

CALENDAR

Sunday 1 PM April 22nd
FBBG Education Building
in the Whitnal Park Boerner
Botanical Gardens—
Program is given by Edgar
Anderson from *Fragrant
Isle Lavender Farm and
Shop* on Washington Island

Sunday 1 PM May 20th
FBBG Education Building
DAYLILY AUCTION and
Ginny Pearce from Grand
Rapids, MI speaks about
her daylily program
gardenpathperennials.com

Saturday June 2nd
DSSEW Annual Daylily
SALE!!

Tips from Hybridizer Bill Maryott

Bill Maryott is a well-known hybridizer of iris and daylilies in Corralitos, CA.

1. True hybridizing involves goals. Decide what you like and envision where you want to go. Remember this plant is very pliable, so you can make it change in many ways.
2. Obtain as many cultivars as possible that

are similar to your goals. Find the best; not the most expensive, but the best.

3. Put your breeding stock in one area where it will be easy to evaluate and make your crosses without a lot of walking. A greenhouse, or sheltered enclosure, is ideal because

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Report on Region 2 Winter Meeting

By DSSEW Life Member Ed Kraus—Ohio

Indianapolis, IN February 23-25, 2018

You should have been there!! Just because the Winter Meeting moved from Wisconsin is no excuse for not attending. No one from DSSEW attended this meeting (except me). Indy is only 4 hours away, the hotel is still an Embassy Suites (very classy, breakfast and social hour included), the speakers are always great, and the best part is the great time to visit with fellow Region 2 daylily aficionados.

We had outstanding presentations from daylily hybridizers Gail Braunstein (Ohio), Richard Norris (Ohio), Jamie Gossard (Ohio), Bill Waldrop (Georgia), and Mike Grossman (Minnesota). The updates on their programs and recent introductions showed us how daylily hybridizing is progressing into new and wonderful forms, colors, faces, etc. In addition, Jamie gave us a scientific update on some of his work with ploidy - hexaploids, triploids...fascinating if I understood any of it!

Off-daylily speakers included Paul Owen talking about his European trips, with wonderful pictures from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, etc. The gardens of Europe are harder to find than England, but well worth the effort. And Paul travels on the cheap and will tell you how. Teresa Byington, a rosarian, president of the Indy Rose Society, and a rose test gardener talked about easy care roses and gave us handouts with rose lists for our consideration. Last (actually first), Sandy Holmes gave us the current State of the Region. We are doing better than ok. Watch for changes for the better to the pop poll and consider participating.

The auction was split over Friday and Saturday nights and there was a silent auction for daylilies and one for garden accouterments as well. The auction was a chance to bid for newer (2018 and 2017 cultivars primarily) daylilies and come away with a winner. Even though I had to substitute tally for the auction (the Treasurer just had surgery), I still was able to acquire a couple of newer introductions.

The hospitality room was open both evenings for socializing and snacks (and adult beverages). I was thrilled when Monique Warnke from the Madison club presented me with a 6-pack of Spotted Cow beer! You can't get that in Ohio or anywhere outside of Wisconsin. Thanks Monique! I did manage to consume all of it - no leftovers!

The 2019 Region 2 Winter Meeting will be held around the same dates in late February. Watch for announcements in the newsletter or on the Region 2 website <http://region2daylily.org>. And don't forget the 2019 AHS National Convention in Madison, WI. This is your chance to attend a nearby national meeting, so take advantage of the opportunity which only comes once in ten or so years. Rhonda Veroveen and her talented organizing crew from the Wisconsin Daylily Society have planned excellent tour gardens and a great meeting in Madison. Jump in and see how much fun these meetings can be! Hope to see many of DSSEW members at these future gatherings.



'Elegant Eleanor' Ed Kraus 2018

Finally, with no Region 2 summer meeting this year, I encourage you to attend Northern Mecca in the Dayton, Ohio area on July 6-7-8, 2018. See www.northernmecca.com for dates, times, hotels, etc. Visit six northern hybridizing gardens with eight hybridizers plus a Saturday night party at Valley of the Daylilies with food and daylilies and great company. My Purple Daze Daylily Garden along with co-located Pretty Petals Garden are proud to be a part of the Northern Mecca tour. So c'mon over... love to see everyone in Ohio in July.

Q. and A. with Zannah Crowe

DSSEW Member Zannah Crowe is also a horticulturist at Johnson Nursery

Q: What did you learn last year that solved a problem for you?

A: I learned that there are many effective organic pesticides whose active ingredients are entirely earth friendly (many use essential oils as a deterrent). Bonide® is a manufacturer that produces an extensive line of earth-friendly pesticides.

Q: Are you planning a new approach to soil amendment?

A: When we first established our gardens, we brought in quality, humus-rich soil to build up small berms for planting. Over the years we top-dress with organic matter.

Q: What is your favorite companion plant with daylilies?

A: I find there are two forms that best compliment daylilies; low, mounding plants and tall vertical plants. For mounding plants I love Calamintha 'Montrose White' (blooms all summer/deer & rabbit resistant/sterile). For tall vertical plants my favorites with daylilies are probably Liatris (which I can't grow because the rabbits eat it) and tall, slim varieties of Astilbe (such as *A. chinensis* 'Superba'/'Purple Candles')

Q: What daylily cultivar gave you unexpected performance?

A: I visited Solaris Farms this past summer and acquired an unnamed seedling that is one of the most spectacularly beautiful and highly fragrant daylilies in my garden (photo below).



Q: What is your favorite fertilizer for daylilies? Why?

A: Milorganite®, hands down! Non-burning, inexpensive and the plants LOVE it!

Q: How do you meet a daylily's need for water in a dry year?

A: I rarely water my daylilies. In a dry year they will not perform well, but I believe they are hardy and resilient enough to make it through to the following year without pampering.

Q: Is there a particular garden design you like?

A: I like curving lines to my beds and I try to make sure that the bed is not exclusively or even predominantly daylilies in order to keep interest throughout the growing season.

Hybridizing Hints from Bill Maryott (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

you can control the environment. You will be able to make crosses anytime irrespective of weather. If you are making lots of crosses and you happen to be tall, place them in 3 gallon "stubby pots" on raised beds about 15 inches high. This will prevent a lot of stooping.

4. Know the pedigrees of the plants you are using in breeding. Either write on the label or in a book that is easy to use. You will find that line breeding requires that you know the background of the flowers you are using.

5. Take pictures of any daylilies you are using in breeding. Don't rely on the originators' pictures. You need to know what the flower looks like in your own garden. Take notes on the basic criteria of the plants you use. I always record, color, patterns, flower size, scape height, and buds and branching. Also, mention any major faults or your assessment of how well you like it..

6. I find a pair of surgical scissors is wonderful for grooming the scapes. Spent blooms that have been pollinated and tagged are cut above the ovaries, and spent blooms not pollinated are cut below the ovaries. This keeps your

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Meet Your Fellow DSSEW Member Roberta Mashlan

By DSSEW Member Roberta Mashlan

This is the story of my garden which you will see is intertwined with my life.

In the late summer of 2003, I purchased a condo in Franklin, WI. I also found that I had to have surgery and could do no lifting, so gardening was out for the rest of the year. In my Condo group we could plant in the area near the unit in which we live. At that time, there were five overgrown bushes next to the garage, grass growing along the patio fence, and a berm behind the condo with two shrubs and a yucca plant.

During the summer of 2004, I was laid off so I had some time for landscape. I asked my neighbor about the berm and she said I could do what I wanted there, even though she had put in the shrubs and yucca plant. I found the ground was like concrete, but the rain finally softened it and I began digging it up. I also took up the grass beneath the bedroom windows at the back of my condo. I added mulch, coffee grounds and whatever else I could find to loosen the soil.

Late in 2004 I found another Job.

Then in the Spring of 2005 while returning home from work, I saw a sign for hosta, bought some and planted them in the berm. I also saw a sign for iris and brought them home. Friends gave me plants and they were planted too. I pulled up the small thorny shrubs along the garage and then planted my first daylily between two large bushes. I trimmed those bushes with the only tool I had, a bamboo saw, given to me by my brother who had a military tour in Japan.

In 2006, my dog passed away, and my father's health was going down hill. I was working two jobs and my kids were sometimes with me and sometimes with their dad, so there was not much time for gardening. However, after finding a hand pruner and a small saw at a tag sale, I began trimming my overgrown large shrubs

In 2007, I went to my first DSSEW daylily sale with my friend Seth and saw an old friend working at the sale along with her sister (Sandy and



Audrey). They helped me pick out some daylily plants which I took home; got out my shovel and dug out the grass next to the fence by the patio. I then dug out the grass behind my condo. About this time, my father died, but I kept at the gardening, literally

pruning away one of the bigger shrubs with a large pruning tool borrowed from a friend.

In 2008, I bought more daylilies. My daughter went to school in San Diego and I continued to mulch, adding top soil and coffee grounds to the areas around my condo.

I was laid off again in 2009. But, I now had more room for daylilies having cut back the large shrubs. The person monitoring the condo landscape gave me permission to do as I wished with the large shrubs. However, I was unable to remove the shrubs' roots, so they became plant holders.

I was still laid off in 2010 when my daughter came home looking for a job. She found one, but had to commute to Waukegan. Then my ex-husband died and my daughter began her three year bout with colitis, coming close to dying several times. Many surgeries were needed and she was laid off. She and one of her brothers are now living with me. In the garden, the overgrown bushes are almost all pruned away now (best therapy ever and cheap). My daylilies are beautiful and are helping me deal with all of these happenings. In late fall, I finally landed a part-time job.

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Roberta Mashlan (cont'd)

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From 2011 to the present (retired from part time job in 2015), I now share daylilies with my neighbors. One of them had a planter which was overgrown with weeds and gave me permission to clean it up and plant. Now there are daylilies, wild geraniums, columbines and



iris. I have permission to continue to maintain it and have started working on the berm behind her condo, too. Yes, the ground is still like concrete. Another neighbor

near by let me put in daylilies which I can see from my windows. I

mulch in the spring and occasionally water them, sometimes amending the soil with worm castings and coffee grounds around my plants.

I tried to put daylilies in the common berm of the condo group, but carrying water was difficult and they didn't make it. Condo rules do not permit composting so



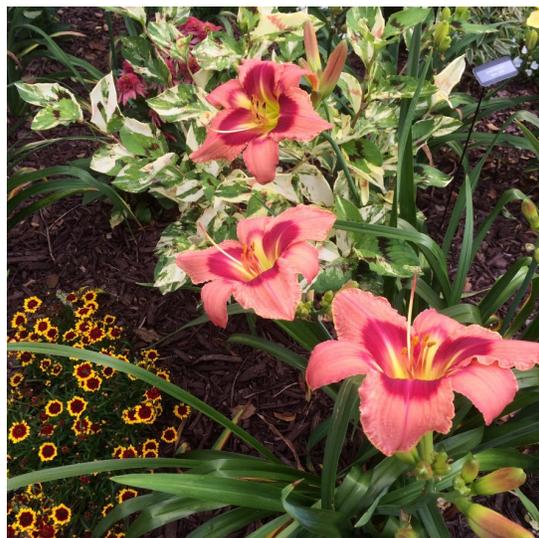
garden waste must be taken to the city dump, but coffee grounds and worm castings have the same color as the soil so no one notices. There are restrictions on watering, especially during dry years—none for grass and

modest amounts for flowers and shrubs I have spots for four guest plants from the club. Plants are grown close together, but I like them that way. I love learning about planting in limited spaces, doing well in Wisconsin weather conditions.

I have purchased over 35 daylilies from the club . Most are planted around my condo and are doing well with bloom from July through September. Several neighbors have daylilies I purchased for them from the club nad it makes me happy to see them. I enjoy daylilies for their flower and feel no need to hybridize. If they form pods and seeds grow and flower, that is Nature's way.

The Editor Has a Request

I need a larger file of photos from DSSEW members to use so I can have interesting and beautiful filler photos to occupy empty space which "just happens" as I put FANFARE! together. The photos can be of your seedlings or garden plants. The seedlings parents are always interesting to know and would be shown, as well as the name of your favorite daylily cultivars. Just to the right is a photo of 'Carnival in Mexico', the 2012 Stout Medal winner in my garden. You get the idea.



DAYLILY FERTILIZATION—MY WAY

By DSSEW Life Member Ed Kraus - Ohio

I have been asked many times about my fertilization program for daylilies. The care of daylilies is like that of most other perennials, except for fertilization, the one big surprise. Unlike most perennials, daylilies are monocots, members of the grass family. And what do grasses need most? Nitrogen of course! So out with the 10-10-10 and in with the 4-1-2 or something like those proportions. (If you want to read more detail on this subject, refer to the source I used for my program: http://www.ctdaylily.com/trimmer_fertilizing.html, an excellent article written by Florida hybridizer Dan Trimmer.)

The concoction is a mix consisting of about 10



Two Kraus seedlings out of
'Ripples and Reflections' Morss 2011

parts Milorganite®, 4 parts alfalfa meal (available from your local feed store) and 1 part high nitrogen lawn fertilizer. The Milorganite is higher nitrogen and slow release. The lawn fertilizer is fast acting which is why it is in such a small portion. And alfalfa meal is both a growth "catalyst" and a good source of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium as well as trace minerals iron, boron, calcium, sulfur, magnesium and zinc. (Harold Steen tipped me off about the alfalfa meal many years ago.) I never fuss over the exact proportions.

This is applied in Spring at a rate of 1 or 2 tablespoons per daylily, more for very large clumps, less for smaller ones. I also use this fertilizer for all my perennials. Just simpler overall and it seems to work just fine. I use a hand crank spreader to lightly fertilize the daylily seedling beds and the lineouts (lineouts are single daylily fans planted in a row, for future sale.)

For most gardens and gardeners, this one application should be sufficient for the season's plant growth for our perennials. For those of us who hybridize daylilies, however, and are impatient to see the results of our newest seedlings fast, more fertilization is appropriate.

For my daylily seedlings, keeper clumps and lineouts, I use liquid spray fertilizer (highest in nitrogen that I can find) just prior to bloom and again after bloom. That is followed up by a light spreader application of the granular fertilizer later in summer/early fall to promote root growth and more fans. Daylilies are spreading perennials, and much of the root growth takes place after bloom into fall, hence the later fertilizations. I do not fertilize display daylilies or other perennials more than the Spring application unless there is some special need.

So the key thing to remember is that nitrogen is the most important nutrient for our favorite flower, and you can fertilize more than once. Happy growing!

January Meeting Program Notes

By DSSEW President Duane Nickel

The DSSEW January meeting program began with Barbara Nickel showing us her daylily hybridizing program started in the late '90s before she even heard of DSSEW. After meeting Harold Steen at a DSSEW plant sale, she joined our club and really got serious. Barbara now has 12 registered daylilies. She has achieved her goal of naming a cultivar for each grandchild and is now working for introductions to be named after her children.

Barbara's goals from the start were strong scapes, good bud count and branching, and large open flowers. She also enjoys working with small flowers and tries to enlarge them.



'Sugar Buzz' X 'Joan Derifield' Barb Nickel seedling

Since Barbara has no plans to sell her daylilies, she can take as much time as she needs to work toward her goals. She showed us several seedlings she is watching for future

introductions as well as second year seedlings also under consideration.

Sandi Martin then told us of her hybridizing program. Calling herself a potluck gardener, she explained that she has not come up with a formal program because of her love for all daylilies. However, she prefers tall, late blooming daylilies that exhibit a strong presence in the garden with a nice rounding plant habit, bright bold colors, teeth and ruffled edges.

Sandi soaks her seeds (12 Tblsp peroxide to 1 gallon of distilled water) for 3 weeks in the refrigerator. She then plants them in Solo cups once they begin to sprout. She achieves close to 100% germination. She now rents several garden plots in Oak Creek, planting several hundred seeds. Her plants must prove themselves in our climate zone. She plans to register at least 2 daylilies this year, the first to be called 'Rejoice and Be Glad', a 'Cherry Cheeks' seedling that has good plant habit and rose/pink flowers of heavy substance.



S. Martin seedling to be registered

Next up was Lew Silva. Lew has been hybridizing for 15 years and still feels his program is in its early stages. He likes large red and purple flowers belly button high. Why bend over? He says his program sometimes is a free for all. Whatever happens, happens. Lew says hybridizing is like a box of chocolates.

Lew pointed out hybridizing detail can be a bit overwhelm-

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January Program Notes (cont'd)

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ing; keeping track of crosses, seeds, seedlings, the good, the bad and even the ugly. Lew has 2 registered daylilies. A garden quote he coined and believes in; "plant only daylilies, everything else is a weed".

Pat Sturdevant ended the program showing us what she has accomplished. She started hybridizing in 2004, focusing on Unusual Form and Open Form daylilies with dormant foliage, either dips or tets, with good plant habit, great bud count and good branching. She said she is drawn to pat-



Pat Sturdevant seedling

terned eyes, and saturated red and/or purple blooms. And if the flower cascades and twists; WOW, that is a heart-stopper.

Barbara, Sandi Lew & Pat all gave a great presentations and appreciated the opportunity to show what they have accomplished in their programs. At the end of their presentations, a question and answer session followed. The questions were great as were the responses. Comments made as we were leaving the meeting were most positive. Some members said they learned a great about hybridizing at this meeting.

What I found most intriguing was that each had their own program with different goals, a different way of achieving these goals while still ending up with absolutely gorgeous flowers. As Pat, Lew Sandi and Barbara demonstrated, everyone should try hybridizing. It's fun and like waiting to open presents. Only now, it's seeing the daylily cross bloom for the first time; the result of a cross you made.

Maryott Hybridizing Hints (cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

scapes clean for better evaluation.

7. Make the decision on saving or discarding when the scape is in bloom. I carry three different marking tapes in my hybridizing apron. Blue is save, red is discard, and yellow is breeder only. This makes disposition so much easier in the summer when my greenhouse is cleared.

8. Pollinations can be made in the mornings as soon as the pollen is "fluffy". The nighttime temperature must not drop below 55 degrees and ideally the daytime temperature should be below 85 degrees, although I get pretty good seed set in the greenhouse when the temperature reaches the low 90's..

9. I try to visit my greenhouse an hour before the pollen is ready to use. I photograph any new cultivars, groom everything and make a list of pollinations I intend to make. Many times an item on the list is open ended in that it may involve twenty or more pollinations. For example "cross all orange throated seedlings with purple patterns with my best purple patterned orange."

10. When I take digital pictures I always follow the flower with a legible label. Then each day, all the pictures for that day are downloaded into a directory for that date. Later this summer, they will all be consolidated. The pictures are correctly named and the label pictures are discarded each day.

Thanks, Bill (Ed.)

From the editor's
Garden

'Our New
Kermitment'

Richard Norris
2016



GETTING STARTED WITH DAYLILIES

By DSSEW Member Pat Adrian

I bought my first registered daylilies about 8 years ago. I stumbled upon the Madison club's Daylily Sale on Half-Price Sunday and before I knew it, I had purchased six: 'King Alfred', 'Posies in the Park', 'Siloam Prissy', 'Wild Cherry Round-Up', 'Clouds of Kisses', 'Gypsy Rose', and 'Calypso Dancer'. My selection criteria was how attractive the bloom looked on the display photograph. I still have all six, although 'Wild Cherry Round-Up' struggles because it is an evergreen. I mulched it last fall, so I'm hoping for a comeback because it is a great flower.



'Wild Cherry Roundup' Trimmer 2003

Over the years I have purchased other daylilies at the SouthEast Wisconsin Master Gardener Perennial Plant Sale (3rd Saturday in May at State Fair Park). Last year I bought the last "tangerine colored daylily" - a favorite plant of the donor. I'm hoping for an impressive 2018 bloom.

Five years ago I joined DSSEW and won a couple of plants as door prizes and bought a few at the annual auction. For the past few years I've helped bag/tag plants for the annual sale - and, of course, I always buy more than I had planned at the sale. The bag/tag event has really been a bonding experience for me and plants, not to mention other DSSEW members! It's a day to notice the vigor of the plants, size of root systems and leaves. It's given me time to recognize the characteristics of plants and to appreciate knowing more about plant propagation.

So many of the DSSEW members have been encouraging me to learn more about daylily gardening. They are incredibly generous in offering advice and sharing experiences. Ted Haasch is so knowledgeable and opens his gardens each year - and he gives a free plant to all garden visitors!

Cool Daylily Names: 'Radiation Biohazard', 'Angel Fairy Tern', 'Primal Scream'

Cool Daylily Blooms: 'Rock Candy', 'I'm a King Bee', 'Chesapeake Crablegs'

My first experience with daylilies was a bit disappointing. The tall daylily scapes with expanding buds were ready to open, perhaps even with a hint of color, and then the next day, the tall daylily scapes were shredded at the tips. No buds left! After a few years, I didn't even know what color blooms I could have had. Deer were the culprits and still I keep trying to outwit them. My new daylily "compound" would be suitable to house a couple of velociraptors!

I did try spreading Milorganite® on my yard a few times per year. I supplemented with applications of Liquid Fence, but I wasn't quick enough with needed follow-up applications. And we have sometimes had six to eight deer in our yard at one time. Some were probably discouraged; others didn't seem to mind what we did. Our yard appears to be a destination spot for deer.

My husband created our first fenced daylily garden with a four foot high fence. The deer could have jumped over with ease, but it was a narrow rectangle garden and the two rows of fencing the deer saw discouraged jumping in. So it worked for a year or two. Then the deer began to push against it and lean over to eat. So...THEN he created a sturdier 7 ft high fence for a new daylily compound. So far, for two years, no deer or rabbit has harmed the plants and I have seen how beautiful my daylily plants really are. I also moved in Oriental, Asiatic, Orienpet and Martagon lilies; phlox; and delphiniums. These plants are also decimated by deer in unfenced areas.

As a newcomer to daylily growing I had the opportunity to grow my own "mystery" daylilies from seed. A fellow South-East Wisconsin Master Gardener, Ed Kraus, brought hundreds of envelopes of daylily seeds to one of our monthly meetings. He is a daylily propagator, now living in Ohio.

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Daylily Society of SouthEast Wisconsin

c/o Harold Steen, FANFARE! Editor
13674 Windy Prairie Drive
Huntley, IL 60142
fnhsteen51@sbcglobal.net

Getting Started with Daylilies (cont'd)

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The envelopes noted the parentage and each contained from 8 to 12 seeds.

So, I knew the parents that produced the seed and, being inexperienced, I selected my 5 seed packets strictly by the colors of the parents. No other concerns about time of bloom, size of bloom, height of parents, bud count, dip/tet, etc.



First fenced garden



Second fenced garden

I planted the seeds directly into a new garden bed that was somewhat enriched with some topsoil, but was mostly clay. Each seed planted was marked with a popsicle stick which promptly faded. Thank goodness I also created a map showing the groups of the seeds. Each packet contained 8 to 12 seeds and nearly every seed germinated and grew into a great plant. Growth was slow so I didn't get blooms until years 3 and 4. I supplement Mother Nature's rain with weekly watering. I also mulched the growing seedlings with #2 Canadian Jack Pine Mulch (so far, no jumping worms!).

I didn't realize the diversity I would get with the plant siblings. I got darker, medium and lighter shades of a similar color; 1 or 2 plants would be real outliers in terms of color or size of bloom. Now I use labels for each plant that describe its characteristics: "large, deep red bloom with lime green throat and some eye shading." And although none of the plants are registered, some are spectacular, vigorous growers with eye-catching blooms that really make a statement. I won the 2017 DSSEW photo contest with a photo of a cluster of blooms from a purple spider plant from Ed!

It was tremendous fun to see my seedlings develop into huge plants. All I needed was patience and some garden space.



'Carla Magnus' Ed Kraus 2018