



Cedar Valley Iris & Daylily Society



October, 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time, we were still trying to recover from a summer of rains that never stopped. It was too wet to divide clumps of daylilies and Siberians that needed attention, there were few dry days to offer an opportunity to mulch new plantings and plant bulbs, and it was depressing to inventory our bearded iris loss to rot -- hundreds of cultivars! It seemed truly a miracle that CVIDS managed to hold a successful plant sale in Monticello and host the Region 1 Daylily Tour. This year, we find ourselves systematically watering all our flower beds in an attempt to make sure that there will be enough moisture in the ground for the winter. Because of the unusually dry spring, we had the best bearded iris bloom in five years (that is to say, all the ones that didn't rot last year!). The Siberian bloom was not as spectacular and the daylilies did not assume the "dinner plate" proportions of last season, but at least we were able to get out and enjoy our gardens.

Club activities this past year included a tour of the Stoll gardens during mid-May to see the median iris bloom and a tour of the Hobbs and Pheiffer gardens in early July. We were able to see many of Gerald's new seedlings and provide him with input on the advisability of introducing some of them. Everyone was given a seedling of their own choosing to take home with them. Some of us were finally able to see the Pheiffer garden for the first time, after being denied that pleasure last year when all the bridges were closed due to the floods. This is a truly impressive garden, with its expansive setting of trees, open meadow and numerous beds, exquisite companion plantings and the chimes swaying in the wind.

Perhaps the highlight of the season for some CVIDS members was the trip to Orlando in May for the National Daylily Convention. Club members in attendance were the Hobbses, Hadravas, and Stolls. Here was a chance to see in person some of those spectacular Stamile seedlings we saw during the slide show they had presented at our regional last year. Beside the Stamile garden, Big Tree Garden with its spacious lined out beds, Ra Hansen's cozy setting, and the awesome Salter garden with its state of the art hybridizing efforts, were the highlights of this rewarding trip.

Once again, our yearly sale at Riverside Gardens in Monticello was a success. However, I think that we should discuss at our next meeting better ways of promoting our plant sale. We had many unsold plants and could have used more customers. I would like to thank all those who supplied plants and who were on hand to assist with sales at Monticello. Marilyn Little, Gerald and Elenora Hobbs, Fred McDowell, Jerry and Lela Hadrava, Joy Adams, Jackie Westhoff, Donna Helgens, Jean Hecht, Barb Mansheim, Verne Moore, and Lynn and Barry Stoll all contributed plants for the sale. Jackie, Joy, Marilyn, Arlene, Jean, Donna, Barb, and the Hobbses and Stolls helped out at the sale. Also, a special thank you to Jackie Westhoff and Jim Adams, who took all the leftover plants to heel in for next year's sale, and to Marilyn, Joy, and Donna, who helped us trim and label plants the week before the sale. Once again our pot luck showed the culinary versatility of our club members. Proceeds from the sale will again go toward purchasing plants to be grown by club members and eventually offered in silent auction. (By the way, the silent auction this year was highly successful, due to the care our members have given to their "guests", some spirited bidding by those who participated in the auction, and to Lynn Stoll, who organized the auction, recorded the bids, and distributed the plants.) Proceeds from the sale will also help to partially subsidize our forthcoming banquet at the Highlander (see page 13). I hope to see all of you there on November 12. Please come and join us for a tasty repast, renewal of friendships, ideas for the 1995 season, election of officers, and an enjoyable slide presentation!

Barry Stoll

THE MOKAN TETRAPLOIDS

by Frederick P. W. McDowell

[written for the AHS Region 1 Newsletter, Fall, 1994]

We are speaking of a series of tetraploid daylilies that came to prominence in the 1970s and the 1980s. The Mokans comprise a group of stellar garden plants, and they deserve to be better known and not passed over as garden subjects because they are not among the newest of the new. (The term "Mokan" is an anagram for Kansas City, Missouri.) These tetraploids are the originations of George Lenington, who died a few years ago at an advanced age, and they seem to me to be superior to most of the diploids that he introduced. The best news perhaps is that they are all now still obtainable at reasonable prices from the newly revived Lenington Gardens at 7007 Manchester Ave., Kansas City, MO (64131). I have grown the majority of the series, and it speaks well for the cultivars that I have superseded only two of the series, **MOKAN SMOOTHIE** and **MOKAN SUNSHINE**. The ones I have not had in my garden are **MOKAN BLEND**, **MOKAN BROWNIE**, **MOKAN DELIGHT**, **MOKAN PINK**, **MOKAN PRINCESS**, and **MOKAN ROYAL**. Other people will have to report on them.

The most outstanding group in the series has to be the pinks. **MOKAN BOUQUET** is an early pure pink that is a lovely flower, the plant habit somewhat on the tall side. Among the other pure pinks are the floriferous **MOKAN EIGHTY** (reputed to have as many as 80 buds though it gives me on the average 30 flowers to a scape) and **MOKAN PINK DREAM**, another beauty in this shade. **MOKAN CINDY** is an appealing pink and yellow blend that is very vigorous as are most plants in this series. Darker pinks include **MOKAN ROSE** and **MOKAN PRIZE**, both notable for their color saturation. **MOKAN SURPRISE** is a flesh pink with hints of melon, and a handsome flower that is tall but stately in the late midseason garden.

Visitors are invariably drawn to two of the most spectacular Mokans, **MOKAN SUNSET** and **MOKAN BITONE**, two cultivars in the brownish spectrum. Well grown clumps of these cultivars are both imposing and unusual in the garden. Possibly the best-known variety in the series is **MOKAN BUTTERFLY**, a seductive combination of pearly off-white with an entrancing soft violet eye pattern -- there is nothing quite like it. **MOKAN VIOLET**, furthermore, is almost the purest medium violet that we have, an attractive cultivar in anybody's book.

There are three deep yellows to golds that round out the series. **MOKAN SUNRISE** is a large flower on a large plant; two scapes of this cultivar can constitute a clump. **MOKAN GOLD** is one of the most vigorous plants in the series and puts on a great midseason display. In the late garden we have **MOKAN MOON**, a pumpkin orange that has extremely large flowers and gives a great display to end the season with.

Granted that the Mokan Hems may not now be on the cutting edge of the novel and sensational, they are nevertheless magnificent plants for the garden, notable for their vigor, their large plant habit, their branching and bud count, and their continued contribution to the splendor of our gardens. They are plants that deserve to be grown for a long time yet. In my garden of 1500 Hems, **MOKAN SUNSET** this season was one of the ten most popular and sought-after Hems in my entire planting -- right up there with **FAIRY TALE PINK**, **SILOAM DOUBLE CLASSIC**, **SERENA DARK HORSE**, and **TOTAL ECLIPSE**. Visitors, moreover, fall in love with the one-of-a-kind **MOKAN BUTTERFLY**, they are awed by the stately serenity of **MOKAN SUNRISE**, and they savor the incandescence of **MOKAN BOUQUET** and **MOKAN PINK DREAM**. The cultivars I have cited in these remarks have been dependable plants for me over the years as well in the first season after being moved and divided. Along with some of the classics of Virginia Peck and James Marsh, they can anchor any garden with grace, distinction, and consistency of performance.

WHY THE CHANGE?

by Paul Black

[Editor's Note: Many CVIDS members will remember Paul Black from his judges' training session at our 1991 regional iris tour. This column first appeared in the Spring, 1994 edition of the AHS Region 11 newsletter. It offers some interesting food for thought about hybridizing trends and inbreeding in some of our favorite perennials, and is reprinted here with Paul's permission.]

For twelve years my nursery, Mid-America Iris Garden, listed and sold only bearded iris. This past year saw the introduction of daylilies, hostas, and beardless iris into the catalog. Why would a person who has grown, showed, sold, hybridized, and in general loves bearded iris switch to growing and selling these other plants?

Daylilies, hostas, and beardless iris, as well as a lot of other plants, aren't new to me. I have grown a lot of plants other than bearded iris here in the garden for a long time. Yes, I have even been on a couple of daylily tours over the years. As with most activities, we tend toward things that link us with people having similar interests. In this case, the link happened to be bearded iris. Once interested in something, I tend to read and learn as much as I can. That is how I became so absorbed with bearded iris. The hybridizing possibilities seemed endless and at that time, the bearded irises were still pretty sturdy garden subjects.

Along with this great enthusiasm came many new friends, lots of show awards, and finally my own hybrids coming to market and some of those hybrids being awarded. That is enough to keep anyone going, and it certainly did me.

So what happened; why does my catalog this year have only a single bearded iris listed in it? There have always been some problems raising bearded iris, but they certainly aren't alone in that respect. With the extremes of climate experienced here, almost any plant can have an off year when conditions are far from their liking. That is what happened in 1992 with the bearded iris. Starting in mid-June, 1992, we received record-setting rains over the next ten weeks. Every week there was one and usually two or three rains. During this time, the top of the ground didn't dry out. Even though my garden has perfect drainage, the soil stayed saturated with this overabundance of rain. Bearded iris love dry weather with plenty of sun. The conditions we had were just the opposite.

Thus started their decline. First there was a little rot here and a little there. I would go out each day and clean things up. Then the pace began to accelerate and in a month's time, almost the entire garden was involved. No amount of cleaning and disinfecting stopped it. With no end to the rain and no sun, the rot grew worse. When the rain did finally end, much of the commercial stock had been damaged. What to do?

I decided to dig the entire stock of bearded iris, fumigate the soil, disinfect the remaining plants, and replant them. The other decision I made was to increase the stock of daylilies, hostas, and beardless iris. This would allow them to be placed into the commercial listing in 1993 as a hedge against another disaster.

The spring of 1993 came and the bloom was glorious. There was only one problem: the rains started again. After several weeks of constant rain, the bearded iris had started to rot again, and the devastation was quicker and more complete than the year before. I was able to plant into four rows what was left of the commercial bearded iris stock.

The worst part of this disaster was not being able to find answers about what was happening or what to do about it. I sent a number of leaf, rhizome, and root samples to two different plant laboratories along with detailed information about culture here, symptoms being exhibited, etc. I also asked them to screen specifically for bacterial leaf blight (*Xanthomonas*

tardicrescens) and southern blight (*Sclerotium rolfsii*). The results from both labs found only one organism, bacterial soft rot (*Erwinia cartovera*). I'm no stranger to soft rot, and soft rot as known to most gardeners is readily identifiable by the stinky brown mush. That was the first hint that this wasn't the usual soft rot. Instead of being brown and smelly, this organism was causing the rhizome to turn to mush, but it was white as cottage cheese and very similar in texture to cottage cheese. Instead of having a foul smell, there was a rather green smell like yeast. The other interesting aspect is that it would turn the interior of the rhizome to mush while leaving the leathery covering intact until you put your finger through it. Garden variety soft rot is treatable in a number of ways. Digging and drying out or disinfecting with Clorox or Comet or use of a bactericide such as agricultural streptomycin are all quite effective in treating soft rot.

On to the next problem. None of these remedies worked against the organism that was causing this rot. Not only did these not work, but none of the fungicides helped either. Normally the one salvation for any iris rhizome is to dig it up, dry it out with a healthy dose of the sun's ultraviolet rays, and then replant it. When this didn't work, I knew I was in real trouble. I had rhizomes that were firm and healthy when dug. These were disinfected and dried in the sun and then left out of the ground dry for two months. They were subsequently replanted. What happened? You guessed it: they rotted within a couple weeks of being replanted into sterile soil.

Now I'll let you answer the question posed as the title of this article. Would you continue trying to grow something in your garden that you could almost be assured was going to die? I don't think so. Add to that the aspect of making your living from that plant, and the answer becomes very clear. A change is imminent.

Again, what to do. The first step was to look around and see what plants were still performing well here in the garden that my business could be continued with. The answers were fairly obvious. The daylilies were performing well, and so were the hostas and beardless iris. That is not to say that each of these plants is without its own peculiar problems. However, they were, for the most part, doing what a good perennial should: growing, blooming, and increasing. Sounds good to me!

I've been around a while now and I'm not so naive as I once was. In the back of my mind is the nagging question, could it happen again with one of these plants? I think the answer is, yes, it could. Let's take a look at why I say that.

To reasonably produce a commercial plant product some degree of monoculture (growing only one crop) has to be practiced. It may be only one large bed of a particular plant or it may be an entire field. The problem is that once an insect or disease pathogen takes hold, it is free to spread and reproduce with great abandon since its favorite host is all around it. Even worse is growing the same plant in the same area year after year. This allows those same problems to accumulate in greater numbers. This explains the increase in the incidence of known problems.

What it doesn't account for is the onset of what appears to be a completely new disease organism in the garden. There are a couple of possibilities to explain this. They may or may not be right; they are only some observations. It is well known that organisms, whether insect or disease pathogen, mutate. They do this for several reasons. One of them is in response to sprays we use, such as insecticides, fungicides, *etc.* With every spraying, there are those that escape and are able to adapt in order to survive. So, the possibility exists that a new and more virulent strain of bacteria or fungus has been produced that is resistant to any of our remedies. It happens, and rather frequently in this day and time. Add to this the frequent exchange of plants between gardeners. If I send you my plant to which may be attached an insect or disease pathogen that is a mutant, and say you have your own little mutants already in your garden -- you can begin to see the possibilities.

The really scary part is that while we talk about breeding healthier and more disease-resistant plants, in most cases these qualities are being sacrificed for ever more colorful, ruffled, and rounded flowers. Even at its best, plant hybridization would have a hard time keeping up with these ever-changing insects and pathogens. Given our willingness to ignore plants with superior survival traits, it is no surprise that we eventually end up with disasters. A survey of the plant world and all the problems that keep appearing should be cause for concern.

I would like to end this article with heaps of praise for the splendid daylily and its performance, and the elegant hosta and its performance. That is not the reality I see. What I see is exactly the same selective process that has helped put bearded iris on the endangered list in areas of the country that aren't perfectly suited for their culture. I am hearing rumbles of daylilies that are rot prone, and less resistant to other disease pathogens and insect damage. With hostas, I am hearing of viral and nematode problems. Given these known deficiencies, there is still no concentrated effort to hybridize varieties that have superior resistance to these beasts.

I am no different from the next person: I love all the new colors and frills of the latest hybrids. I am, however, demanding that they be able to withstand the less than perfect environment that they must deal with in order to provide the beauty in my garden that I expect from them. I am not willing to stick my head in the sand and play like these problems don't exist. I know that if these problems aren't addressed as they appear, they only get worse until the ultimate disaster strikes and we have to give up another of our wonderful plants.

I've given up growing most roses because I refuse to make weekly sprayings in order to maintain them. I've been forced to give up bearded iris, at least momentarily. My fondest hope is that daylilies and hostas won't be next on the list.

NOTE: After the ground here at Mid-America Garden has lain vacant for a year and a half, and with nearly no problems with the remaining stock during that time, bearded iris will be included in the Mid-America catalog in 1996.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 1995

AHS National Convention: Knoxville/Chatanooga, TN, June 23-26. Details will be forthcoming in *The Daylily Journal*. Plan now to attend; most daylilies on display which thrive in Tennessee will also grow successfully in Iowa (not always true for conventions in the Deep South!).

AHS Region 1 Convention: Minneapolis, MN, July 14-15.

AIIS National Convention: York, PA, May 23-27.

AIIS Region 21 Convention: Lincoln, NE, May 20-21.

AIIS International Symposium: Gardening with Iris Species: Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO, March 24-26. A rare opportunity to learn more about species iris from 12 experts in the field. Registration \$100 before Jan. 1, 1995, \$125 Jan. 1-March 1, \$150 after March 1. For further information, contact Lynn or Barry Stoll.

Note: If you have dates and other information about other 1995 plant society meetings, sales, etc., please send the information to the Editor so that it can be included in the 1995 Calendar of Events in the Spring Newsletter.

SPOTLIGHT ON SIBERIANS: In Praise of Clumps -- and Patience!

by Lynn Stoll

(written for the AIS Region 21 regional newsletter)

I've known for many years in an abstract way that Siberian iris take several years to reach their full potential, but the 1994 iris season really brought this home to me. Last year we had attended the first-ever national Siberian iris convention, where we had seen large, stunning clumps of many of the newest varieties of Siberians. Last fall we ordered as many of these varieties as we could find sources for, and this spring I could hardly wait to see them in my garden. Well, as I should have expected, they were pathetic -- and I was disappointed. Most didn't bloom at all, and those that did put up perhaps one or two short stalks with one or two blossoms. I know better, of course, and I said to myself, "Dummy, what did you expect?!" And yet even though I *knew* better, I *felt* disappointed. By contrast, the large clumps of older, more "ordinary" Siberians were splendid -- graceful masses of glowing color. And I thought how these clumps which grow more beautiful with each year are the iris grower's reward for his or her patience in the first few years. My greatest sources of pleasure in this spring's Siberian garden were not the few little sprigs of the "newest and best," but rather the radiant masses of color of my big clumps of older varieties. There's Hollingworth's **HELIOTROPE BOUQUET**, with an intense mauve violet color that positively *glows* in a clump. Garden visitors usually spot it from about 50 feet away and say, "Ooh, what's *that* over there?" His **CONTRAST IN STYLES** produces a particularly interesting clump effect; the profusion of wine-red blooms appear dotted with small light blue stars or bees, a result of the contrasting blue stylearms. One of my favorite established clumps is Bee Warburton's **ISABELLE**, a pale yellow amoena which for me has proven the best grower of this color class. The pale yellow to cream flowers in the clump are nicely set off by contrasting bright yellow buds; with good proportion and many bloomstalks, the clump effect is particularly pleasing. In the same color class, Hollingworth's **PAS DE DEUX** is also quite pleasing, although shorter and a little less yellow in our garden. By contrast, **BUTTER AND SUGAR**, which was showered with awards as a color breakthrough when it first appeared, has been a very poor performer in our garden; it's reluctant to grow at all, let alone form clumps!

Two other favorite Siberians clumps in our garden are **HELICOPTER** and **RIKUGI SAKURI**, both by Japanese hybridizer Ho Shidara. **HELICOPTER** is a blue-violet, while **RIKUGI SAKURI** is pink. Both have the flat, six-fall form commonly associated with Japanese irises, both are exceptionally vigorous and rapid increasers, and both form lovely, graceful clumps, moving gently in a breeze. Two McGarvey Siberians which have the same attributes of vigor and attractive clump form also come to mind. **ANN DASCH** is an older blue-purple with deeper edges; it won the Morgan Medal in 1983. **GULL'S WING** is a fine tall white with excellent flower form; it's a season-extender, blooming very late in the season. Briscoe's **STEVE VARNER** (Morgan-Wood Medal, 1987) is a ruffled bluish lavender which also grows well and forms very attractive clumps. Several of Steve Varner's introductions which have been good growers and fine clump-makers for us are **DEMURE ILLINI** (1985), a grape-red with a large white signal; **ILLINI CROWN** (1985), a deep wine red; and two older pink/lavender bitones, **ILLINI CHARM** and **ILLINI ENCORE**. The latter is one of the few Siberians that will almost always bloom the first year after transplanting, and produce enough bloom to make a significant garden effect the second year.

Of course, not all Siberians mature into these graceful clumps. As Bob Hollingworth pointed out in the interview published in this Bulletin last spring, while the tetraploids have more "whoomph" (his term) as individual flowers, with larger size, bolder patterns, stronger ruffling, it is usually the diploids that mature into the graceful clumps which are so often characterized as "fluttering in the breeze." Many tetraploids have very attractive single

flowers, but bloom placement in a clump seems capricious. Both Roger Mazur and I have commented on the erratic growth and clump habit of **DANCE BALLERINA DANCE**, the 1989 Morgan-Wood Medal winner. Three tets which in our garden seem to form graceful, attractive clumps are Hollingworth's **HIGH STANDARDS** and **CORONATION ANTHEM** and the old **BLUE PENNANT** (McEwen, 1972). **HIGH STANDARDS** at 44" is an extraordinarily tall tetraploid, and perhaps its pleasing clump effect is a result of its proportion, with large purple flowers on tall stalks. **CORONATION ANTHEM** is a gorgeous ruffled medium to deep blue with a large creamy blaze; it's an extremely vigorous grower and a profuse bloomer, rivalling many diploids in this respect. **BLUE PENNANT** is a nice blue with surprisingly modern flower form. It should also be noted that not all diploids make good clumps. Some are rather reluctant bloomers, and even large clumps look rather sparse. Warburton's **PERCHERON** is an interesting example of the opposite problem; it's a very heavy bloomer, and its huge flowers give it a very "busy," crowded effect, at least to my eye, when it's in full bloom. Still, it's certainly a mass of color, and it's been one of the most popular Siberians with garden visitors.

I find myself wondering if the extra time Siberians need to become established may be a major reason that they are less well known and less popular than their tall bearded cousins. A newly planted TB rhizome of a respectable size is likely to produce some bloom the first spring after planting, and usually produces an impressive clump of bloom the year after that (if it doesn't succumb to rot, scorch, or borers). In contrast, a newly planted Siberian is unlikely to bloom at all the first year, and rarely makes much of an impression even the second year after planting. These graceful beauties don't really come into their full glory until the third year and beyond. The problem, of course, is not with the plant but with our expectations for it. So, I hope you readers who are trying a few Siberians for the first time will be more patient than I was. You'll find that you will be rewarded in a few years with a lovely, trouble-free jewel that will give you pleasure for many years to come.

Oh, about all those fancy new ones that were so disappointing this spring: they'll all be mature four-year-old clumps waiting to greet you during the 1997 Region 21 Spring Tour in Iowa City! I hope they'll all delight you as they did us when we saw them as mature clumps last year in Michigan.

YOUR ARTICLE COULD BE HERE!

by Any CVIDS Member

Editor's note: We need your contributions for the newsletter. Let's use *our* newsletter to share information about our successes -- and our failures, which are often even more useful to others! What was your favorite daylily or iris this season, and why? What Southern evergreens have done well in your garden, and which have been poor performers? What unusual companion plants do you have that others might like to know about? What do you grow that blooms when the daylilies are not in bloom? What's on your wish list, and why? What do you do in the fall to get the garden ready for the winter? What other ideas do you have that aren't even mentioned here?

All of us have unique knowledge and expertise to share. One new member asked me for a list of fragrant daylilies. I had to confess I hadn't paid a lot of attention to fragrance, and it was very late in the season and there wasn't much left in bloom to go out and sniff. Can you help him? (We will be happy to help with spelling, editing, and formatting, if you want us to do so.)

NOTES ON SOUTHERN EVERGREENS

by Gerald Hobbs

At the spring CVIDS meeting, Lynn Stoll asked for lists of what has been tender in our gardens. Although I haven't lost all of these, most have had a tough time. My list includes AGAPE LOVE (Spalding) and SKI CHALET (Kirk), both near-whites; BETTY WOODS (Kirchhoff) and DOUBLE PINK TREASURE (Brown), both doubles from the deep South; COOL COLOR (Sellers); SOLANO BULLS EYE; ATTRIBUTION and MARTHA ADAMS, both Spalding. I may have lost 1 out of 400 this year, JIM JIM (Hansen), a two-year old double. Beware of Southern doubles!

Some of Spalding's things do well and some don't. I find that planting practices have a lot to do with hardiness. Buy plants of suspect hardiness from Southern growers in the Spring only, or get plants from your area or farther north that have adjusted to our cold winters. Plant things in the Fall almost 2" over the crown to prevent heaving and mulch plants a year old or less with about 3" of airy mulch like pine needles or stiff clean straw and let the daylilies push their way through in the spring. In fact, leave it around evergreens' base all year. Don't let them sit low in soggy ground all winter.

This may help newcomers, but most is common knowledge.

[Editor's note: I have also lost AGAPE LOVE and DOUBLE PINK TREASURE, and ATTRIBUTION just clung to life for about 3-4 years before I discarded it. SKI CHALET and BETTY WOODS have done a little better for me, although for a gold double, I always try to guide visitors and customers to CONDILLA, which is a much better grower. DOUBLE PINK TREASURE is one of the parents of the spectacular TOTALLY AWESOME, the AHS 1994 President's Cup Award winner featured on the cover of the Fall, 1994 Daylily Journal. Since the other parent is Guidry's BRENT GABRIEL, which was also a marginal performer for me before it was discarded, I think we can forget about growing TOTALLY AWESOME here. In general, I agree with Gerald's warning about Southern doubles, especially the recent Kirchhoff things. Another Southern evergreen double that I nursed along for several years was YAZOO SOUFFLE -- a beautifully formed, fragrant clear pink that I just loved. But no matter how much mulch and TLC I gave it, it just didn't like Iowa. I got JIM JIM as a bonus in an order this spring; after reading Gerald's comments, I'm holding my breath on that one! One exception to the warning about these doubles is Gates's AUSPICIOUS, a fragrant light yellow with a red eye. It's been very reliable for me for 5 years now; it's very early and reblooms consistently, so it's often among the first and last large-flowered daylilies to bloom.]

IN MEMORIAM: DON PETERSON

by Lynn Stoll

Many CVIDS members knew Don Peterson as a warm, cheerful, and energetic lover of daylilies, iris, and hosta -- and of people. Don was the RVP-elect for the AIS Region 21 and an active member of AHS Region 1, as well as the founder of the Nebraska Daylily Society. He and Mary made the trip from Columbus, Nebraska, for all of the regional iris and daylily tours that CVIDS hosted, and generously helped out with last-minute preparations in the garden. We are very sad to tell you that Don died in Columbus of brain cancer on October 20, after a year's illness. Don was very generous with his help, his plants, and his enthusiasm and friendship. He helped many people get started growing iris and daylilies. All his many friends will miss him greatly.

MORE NOTES ON SEASON-EXTENDERS:

THE DAYLILIES OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

by Lynn Stoll

[written for the AHS Region 1 Newsletter, Fall, 1994]

Over the past five years or so, I've become increasingly interested in early- and late-blooming daylilies. Since I can hardly bear to see the season end, the special emphasis in the past few years has been more and more on the late-bloomers. I discussed a number of early and late season-extenders in the Feb., 1993 Region 1 Newsletter, and promised a follow-up article on additional cultivars that I was still evaluating.

Some of the early-blooming varieties recommended in that article that I'm still very enthusiastic about include **MONKEY**, **LYNN'S DELIGHT**, **BUTTERFLY CHARM**, **PAPER BUTTERFLY**, **AUSPICIOUS**, **JUDITH**, **CHARLES JOHNSTON**, **SEDUCTOR**, **JOLLY LAD**, and **KECIA**. **MONKEY**, a small-flowered yellow with red eye, started to bloom here May 24 this year, and put up scattered rebloom scapes in July. **LYNN'S DELIGHT** surprised us by reblooming in August: it has rebloomed for Don Albers in South Carolina, but not here in previous years. I was pleased to see several favorable comments about it in a recent issue of *The Daylily Journal*. **JOLLY LAD**, a totally hardy evergreen, was the first large-flowered daylily to bloom this year, about a week before **PAPER BUTTERFLY**.

Two other excellent early cultivars that I neglected to mention in the previous article are **DOMINIC** and **LEESEA ORANGE CRUSH**; when I saw them in bloom here in June, I wondered how I could have forgotten them! **DOMINIC** (Williams 1984) is a tall red-black with good flower form and good bud count. I know of no other daylily with that color in the early garden. **LEESEA ORANGE CRUSH** (Gates 1979) is a short ruffled creamy orange. If it has a fault, it's that it's almost too floriferous; at peak bloom, it appears as a solid mass of color, where you can't distinguish the individual flowers. I also bought **SUPER DOLL** on the recommendation of Larry Alexander's 1993 article. **SUPER DOLL** is a beautifully formed pinkish apricot with good bud count and branching. I agree with Larry's enthusiastic evaluation; my two-year-old plant was loaded with perfect blooms, well spaced and beautifully proportioned.

Although it's always a joy to see the first daylilies bloom in the late spring, somehow I find the late-bloomers are even more dear to my heart. As the garden begins to decline visibly from peak bloom, I start to think that this will soon end, and there won't be anything to look at for nine months except slides (and those enticing pictures in catalogs). Somehow, this makes the daylilies that bloom through August and even into September all the more precious.

As I looked over the garden in mid-August, thinking about what I wanted to include in this article, I was struck by how many fine late reds there are. At midseason the reds seem to be occasional accents, but wherever I looked in August there were large clumps of reds. My favorite of the ML/L reds are **JAMES MARSH**, **CHICAGO APACHE**, **TROGON**, and **ILLINI JACKPOT**. **JAMES MARSH** has a particularly long bloom season, from early July till mid-August. **CHICAGO APACHE** is usually the last red blooming; Paul York has found it to be tender, but I have five or six large clumps in several locations, and I've never seen any hint of a problem with it. (In other words, there are no absolute guarantees for any single cultivar in any single garden!) The dark red **ILLINI JACKPOT** is a must for its superb branching and 40-50 buds. Another consistently late bloomer that I neglected to mention in the previous article is Peck's **TROGON** (1985). It's a beautifully ruffled flower, as you'd expect, with excellent growth and a distinctive shade of red. Two of Millikan's reds, **BLOOD SPOT** (1986) and **WAR**

PARTY (1989), are also excellent late reds with good flower form and plant habit. **BLOOD SPOT** is a rich blood red with a darker eye and a lime green throat, while **WAR PARTY** is a round scarlet-red with a green throat. All of these reds are tetraploids, although in general I do not make any special effort to focus on tets.

Many of the best lates are in the gold/orange/bronze/copper class -- a flush of fall colors to herald the coming season. **HARVEST HUE** remains one of my favorites in the orange/bronze/copper group for flower form and overall performance. **MALIHINI** and **WOODBURN** are even later, blooming well into mid-September this year. These two are very similar in color; **MALIHINI** has the better flower form, while **WOODBURN** is a more rapid increaser. Also, **YUMA** becomes more and more beautiful every year (though it's a painfully slow grower, and I have yet to see a single flower fully open). Hal Stahly and Dave Niswonger visited the garden in mid-August, and both were greatly attracted to a five-year-old clump of **YUMA**. Niswonger said that he had been in Whatley's garden dozens of times but had never seen **YUMA**, because he never thought to visit the garden so late in the season. Millikan's **SCOTCH PLAID** (1989) also falls into this color class. It's an attractive and distinctive rust red and creamy orange bicolor which bloomed for most of August.

Other lates mentioned in the previous article that I still highly recommend are **PRIDE OF MASSACHUSETTS** and **CREAM DESIRE** (whites); **LAHAINA** and **ANNA MAE HAGER** (yellow); **GOLDEN PRIZE** (gold); **REGAL FINALE** (purple); and **LUSTY LITTLE LULU** and **SOMBRERO WAY** (apricot/melon).

Of all the recent additions to the garden, regardless of bloom season, one of the most noteworthy this year was Ra Hansen's **HEAVEN CAN WAIT** (1991). This is a very ruffled silky peach-pink with heavy substance and excellent plant habit. Two fans planted in the Spring of 1993 did not bloom last year, but by this year had increased to six fans which put up four scapes with 25-30 well-placed buds. The first bloom opened July 25, and the last closed on Aug. 22. I think that **HEAVEN CAN WAIT** would be a star even among all the competition at the height of the season; in the sparse bloom of the August garden, it's absolutely breathtaking. I wish Ra had nominated it for the Eugene Foster Award for late-blooming daylilies, instead of her **SWEET SHALIMAR**. **SWEET SHALIMAR** is a beautiful ruffled apricot, but for me it hasn't been in the same class for performance. My two-year old plant has scarcely increased at all; this year it gave me two scapes with 6-7 buds. **SWEET SHALIMAR** may be a superior performer in the South, but here it doesn't touch **HEAVEN CAN WAIT** for vigor and floriferousness.

Three other Ra Hansen evergreens which have grown and performed well as two-year-old plants in my garden are **MISSOURI MEMORIES**, **SINGS THE BLUES**, and **RAZZLE**. All are registered as ML, although only **SINGS THE BLUES** was truly late here. **MISSOURI MEMORIES** is a very subtle soft creamy orchid pink with a deeper lavender band. The overall effect is very subtle, and it needs to be seen at close range to be fully appreciated. **SINGS THE BLUES** is a flat, ruffled lavender with a dark violet lavender and blue eyezone. Both of these had better than average branching and bud count on two-year-old plants, and both seem perfectly hardy here. Another of my top favorites among our recent acquisitions was **RAZZLE**, a 3-3 1/2" purple which was just covered with blooms from early July till about August 10. Like **HEAVEN CAN WAIT**, **RAZZLE** has superb branching and growth, with a bud count of 25-30.

ORCHID CORSAGE (Saxton 1976) has been another delightful addition to the August garden. This is a huge spidery orchid that produces a lovely clump effect. The color is unusual at any season, and especially striking among the warmer shades of late garden. It bloomed into early September this year. Another outstanding late this year was Jack Carpenter's **LAVENDER STARDUST** (1991), which bloomed well into mid-August. This is a beautifully ruffled, nicely proportioned cool lavender purple with exceptional vigor and growth. We liked it so much last year that we dug it and moved it up closer to the house so

we could enjoy it more -- an act that sometimes sets plants back a year, but not in this case. **LAVENDER STARDUST** is registered as midseason, but it's been an August bloomer both this year and last for us. (By contrast, **CATHERINE NEAL**, one of the best-known "lates" and winner of the Eugene Foster Award, blooms right at the peak of midseason for us here.)

SILOAM SHOW GIRL (Henry 1981) is an outstanding small-flowered dark red with a deeper eyezone which has been a consistent August bloomer for us, even though it's registered as Midseason. A large clump gave us over 30 scapes this year, with 20-25 buds on most; with little else in bloom at the time, it just *glowed*, beckoning one from all over the garden to come and admire it. (Unfortunately, there are few visitors at this time of year to see these beauties!)

CARLOTTA (Millikan 1990) is a nice ruffled coral pink that is a good addition to the August garden. It's been a vigorous grower, and the color is probably unique in the late garden. Pierce's **SISSY** (1983) is a yellow/pink blend; it's registered as EM, but has bloomed here in August both this year and last. Again, it's an unusual color combination which is particularly novel in the late garden. **SISSY** has the excellent form typical of a Pierce daylily, with growth, branching, and bud count that are adequate but not outstanding. Stamile's **LATE AGAIN** (1991) is a gorgeous ruffled pink bitone with a green throat -- and all the good qualities you expect of a Stamile pink. It was beautiful this year as a one-year-old plant, although it's really too early to evaluate it properly.

The last daylily in bloom in the garden, except for rebloom, has been a novelty known as **LATE ORANGE**. I first saw it as a striking clump in Gerald Hobbs's garden. Gerald told me that it came originally from Gretchen Harshbarger but was never registered. It's a spidery bright (almost brassy) orange, with excellent branching and lots of buds and an attractive clump effect. Up close, the flowers are rather plain; but at a distance, it is *bright* -- and by the first of October, there's not much competition! It's not widely distributed, although I've seen it listed in Rod Lysne's catalog in addition to local growers.

Two highly acclaimed lates that have been disappointing in our garden are **CHARLES RONDINELLI** and **AUTUMN SHADOWS**. **CHARLES RONDINELLI** didn't bloom at all the first year, and produced only a few sad-looking flowers the second year. In this, its third year, it produced adequate scapes and buds, and it was indeed late, blooming until the first of September; but it was so *ordinary*. (I certainly didn't think it was worth the \$65.00 I paid for it!) I think that the less well known **ANNA MAE HAGER** is much better for a very late-season yellow. **ANNA MAE HAGER** also has all the desirable qualities of good growth, branching, and bud count, it blooms at the same time -- *and* it has a beautiful flower. **AUTUMN SHADOWS** finally bloomed in this its fourth year in the garden. Again, it *is* late, as advertised. The flower reminded me somewhat of **ROCKET CITY**, but it has none of the other good garden qualities of that plant: growth has been pitiful here, and branching and bud count were poor.

As I look out over the garden now, the first killing frost has just ruined the remaining scattered rebloom of daylilies and iris. So it's time to turn our thoughts to next year. I hope that this information will be helpful to those of you, like me, are sad to see the season end and who want to plan to extend their daylily bloom season next year.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1994 DUES??

If you plan to attend the banquet and have neglected to send in your 1994 dues, please include a check for 1994 dues with your banquet registration. Also, for your convenience, we will accept checks for 1995 dues at this time (\$5.00 individual, \$7.00 family).

FRED McDOWELL WINS AHS REGIONAL SERVICE AWARD

by Lynn Stoll

At the AHS National Convention in Orlando, AHS President Ken Cobb announced the awarding of the Distinguished Service Award to CVIDS charter member Fred McDowell. This prestigious award is approved by the AHS national Board of Directors after being proposed by the region, and is based on a record of outstanding service to the region.

As most CVIDS members know, Fred McDowell has been a very active member of AHS since 1966. In that time, he and his garden have inspired hundreds if not thousands of people in Iowa and nearby states to begin growing daylilies. He maintains an official AHS Display Garden which includes 1500 different cultivars, including many of the very newest ones. At region 1 meetings and local events, again and again one hears individuals saying, "I got my first daylilies from Fred." Many people drive hundreds of miles each year to visit his garden, which we all consider a valuable reference guide to the best modern daylilies. At the same time, he is generous to local clubs and other groups with invitations to his garden. I myself first "discovered" daylilies when a plant propagation course I was taking at the University of Iowa made a field trip to Fred's garden.

In addition to maintaining an outstanding daylily garden and spending a considerable amount of time answering visitor's questions, Fred regularly goes out of his way to educate the public and AHS members about growing daylilies. In the 9 years that I have been active in the AHS, I can think of very few regional meetings that have not included a slide presentation by Fred based on his experiences with some of the newer daylily cultivars and their performance in this region. A retired English professor, Fred is an extremely generous and regular contributor of articles to the Region 1 newsletter, along with occasional articles for *The Daylily Journal*. He has served as a past RVP of Region 1 and, until the formation of a CVIDS three years ago, organized several regional meetings in Iowa City virtually single-handedly.

When I asked Fred how he felt about receiving the Distinguished Service Award, he said that he had no idea that anything was afoot, and he was both completely surprised and greatly pleased. He commented that one of his greatest satisfactions in having a Display Garden was knowing that the existence of his garden has led to other people's interest in growing daylilies and to the multiplication of other fine gardens in this area. He noted out also that at the end of every season, he thinks that nothing more can possibly be done to improve on some of the splendid daylily cultivars we now have to enjoy -- and then next season, new vistas open up in flower form and color variation!

CVIDS warmly congratulates Fred on this important and richly deserved award!

Even short contributions by members
are wanted for the newsletter!

CVIDS END-OF SEASON BANQUET

The CVIDS end-of-season banquet will be held on Saturday, November 12, at 6:00 P.M. at the Highlander Inn in Iowa City. This will be an opportunity for us all to relax together after the garden has been put to bed for the winter and share our experiences from the 1994 garden season. We have reserved a nice *quiet* private room for the social hour at the banquet. Fred McDowell will show slides of some of the exciting new daylily varieties that bloomed in his garden this summer. Lynn Stoll will show slides of some new and future daylily introductions that she took at the AHS National Convention in Orlando in May. The slides will include some exciting new varieties by Pat Stamile, Jeff and Elizabeth Salter, and Ivar Hansen, photographed in the hybridizers' gardens. We will also hold a short business meeting to elect officers for 1995 and discuss plans for the coming year.

The cost will be \$11.00 per person for members and their spouses or significant others; this represents about half of the actual cost. The remainder will be covered by the club (alcoholic beverages are extra, at your expense). Other guests are welcome, but will be asked to pay the actual cost of the meal (approximately \$22). Please indicate your choice of entrée on the form below and return the form along with your check to Lynn Stoll, 999 310th St, Atalissa, IA 52720. **We must have your response by Nov. 8 at the latest**, in order to give the Highlander a final count by their deadline. The Highlander Inn is located at I-80 at Highway 1, Exit 246.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for a fine dinner and a pleasant evening!