

Cedar Valley Iris & Daylily Society

Members' Handbook

Third Edition

March 9, 2024

A. INTRODUCTION:

This handbook is written as an introduction to the mission and operations of our Society. We hope that it will also encourage new and seasoned members to join the Board or volunteer at one of the many exciting events in the Society's calendar. Founded in 1990, CVIDS is a scientific, educational, and social organization whose mission is to promote the genera *Hemerocallis* (daylily) and *Iris*. Its purpose is to educate our members and the general public about all aspects of growing daylilies and irises in eastern Iowa and surrounding regions. To further these goals, this organization provides lectures, garden tours, plant sales, and fellowship among its members and with members of other groups with similar goals. It also studies the local hardiness of newly introduced daylily cultivars through its Club Plant Program.

B. SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

Our members meet throughout the year at various locations across eastern Iowa with programs that include presentations by well-qualified speakers, garden tours, and sales of select cultivars at attractive prices. Non-members and guests are welcome to attend our meetings. If you would like to join CVIDS, an application form and information about dues are available online (<http://www.cvids.org/join.html>) or from the Treasurer.

CVIDS meetings are usually held on the second Saturday of January, February, March, April, and October and are both social and educational events. Meeting set-up starts at 11:00 a.m. with the social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch at noon. Please provide something to share. Members are asked to bring their own table service and drink to the potlucks. Programs begin at 12:30 p.m. and adjourn at approximately 3 p.m. If you are unable to attend a meeting in-person, please consider attending via Zoom (see Section C). CVIDS also offers its members several annual events:

- 1) Early May: A Spring Public Plant Sale
- 2) Late May: A Club Plant Distribution event and Live Auction
- 3) July: A Garden Tour that features club members' gardens
- 4) August: A Fall Public Plant Sale
- 5) August: Member-only Silent and Live Auctions
- 6) October: A Hybridizers' Roundup
- 7) November: A Fall Banquet
- 8) November: The annual Betty Miller Photo Contest, usually held at the Fall Banquet

These activities and the Club Plant Program are described in greater detail below. Please note that dates and activities may change to accommodate other events such as the ADS National and Regional meetings as well as seasonal circumstances. During the COVID pandemic, some club meetings were held virtually via Zoom. The Board welcomes suggestions from the membership regarding potential programs, speakers, and meeting locations. Furthermore, it is eager to learn of events at local, regional, and national levels that our membership would enjoy.

1. SPRING PLANT SALE:

CVIDS holds its first public plant sale in early May, selling daylilies, iris and companion perennials (no woody stemmed plants e.g. lilac, raspberry, hydrangea, etc.) donated by its members. The location is announced to the membership as early as possible by e-mail and newsletter and on the CVIDS website. For many years, this sale has been held in conjunction with Muscatine Master Gardeners, the Muscatine Garden Club, and a 4-H group.

Members' Involvement:

Members are asked to donate daylilies, iris and companion perennials to this sale. Please price your donated plants and, wherever possible, attach photos of them as they greatly promote sales. Daylilies should be bare-rooted double fans of named cultivars. The roots should be clean, and the foliage clipped to about 8 inches. Please clearly label your donated lilies with cultivar name, hybridizer and introduction date, ploidy (DIP or TET), and brief description of the cultivar. (This information can usually be found by searching the ADS database at <https://daylilydatabase.org>). Iris donations should be bare root for the bearded varieties and potted up or bagged with moistening agents for beardless Iris. Please clearly label your donated iris with cultivar name, hybridizer and introduction date, and type bearded or beardless, adding a brief description of the cultivar (i.e. type, as in Tall Bearded, Standard Dwarf Bearded or Siberian Iris or Japanese Iris). Information about registered iris cultivars can be found at the AIS Online Register (<https://register.irises.org>). Companion perennials are often brought in pots and should be labeled too. Bring your own chairs and some plastic grocery store bags. Set-up usually begins at 8 a.m. The sale starts at 9 a.m. and ends before noon.

2. CLUB PLANT PROGRAM:

CVIDS has for many years promoted its Club Plant Program to evaluate daylily cultivars. Each year, the club invests a portion of its funds to buy some choice daylilies that are distributed in May to eligible members (for explanation, see below) to grow in their garden for two years with the assignment of evaluating the cultivar. Members then keep the initial number of fans but return any increase in fans to be sold in the August Silent and Live Auctions. For example, for a club plant received in May 2024, any increase in fans is returned in August 2026. It is the responsibility of the member to grow, evaluate and return the plant.

Members are advised to plant their club plant without delay in a prime spot in their garden and nurture it carefully yet let the plant experience the same growing conditions that make eastern Iowa a unique environment. Furthermore, it is expected that club plants will not be split and shared with others or used for seed production during these two years. However, pollen can be harvested from these plants for hybridization with pod parents. If immediate planting is not feasible, potting club plants in a fertile potting soil mix as soon as possible is a recommended practice. It allows new roots to form and enables the plants to acclimate quickly. The pots can be buried in beds or placed in sheltered areas and then transplanted into the beds as they show signs of new growth. This also gives latitude to move new plants and/or remove them, should they happen to show signs of rust or other disease, which, although unlikely, can occur.

A key component of the Club Plant Program is the cultivar evaluation assignment. On returning increases to their club plant, members are required to complete an evaluation form concerning its hardiness in their garden, scape/branching, flowers, and overall distinction. Such data are made available to other members via email and our website, allowing them to make more informed choices when purchasing new lilies for their gardens. Evaluation data gathered in 2017-2023 can be accessed at: <http://www.cvids.org/Evaluations.html>. Additionally, CVIDS has maintained a database of its club plants and auctioned plants since 2003 at: <http://www.cvids.org/clubplantsdatabase.html>

Eligibility Requirements to Receive a Club Plant (approved 3/9/24):

To be eligible to receive a club plant for the current year, a member must have fulfilled the following THREE requirements:

- 1) paid membership dues for both the current and previous years (paid by April 1 of each year). (For example, to receive a club plant in 2025, dues must be paid by April 1 in 2024 and 2025).
- 2) attended two club meetings during the previous calendar year (January 1 - December 31) either in-person or via Zoom. These could include any of the monthly meetings, the spring club plant distribution and auctions, the fall sale and auctions, the garden tour, and the banquet.
- 3) contributed to the club's activities during the previous calendar year (January 1 - December 31)
EITHER by undertaking ONE of the following:
 - (a) served as a CVIDS Officer/Board member
 - (b) fulfilled the responsibility of chairing or co-chairing a committee

OR by undertaking any TWO of the following:

- (a) donated plants to a club sale
- (b) assisted at the CVIDS plant sales or auctions
- (c) presented a club program
- (d) hosted a CVIDS garden tour
- (e) written an article for the Newsletter
- (f) performed any other activity that contributes to the success of the club. Activity to be approved by the Board.

3. CLUB PLANT DISTRIBUTION & LIVE AUCTION:

In late May, CVIDS holds its Club Plant Distribution, immediately followed by a live auction of both daylilies and iris. These much-anticipated events in the club calendar, together with a brief business meeting, have in recent years taken place at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds Floral Hall in West Liberty. This meeting starts with set-up and a breakfast provided by volunteers. Members are asked to bring their own table service and favorite drink.

Eligible members choose their club plant in a lottery draw. If an eligible member is unable to attend the Plant Distribution, he/she may assign another member as proxy to select a plant for him/her during the drawing. However, the member must inform the club treasurer of the designated proxy prior to the event. If no proxy is designated, no plant will be chosen for him/her.

Live Auction of Daylilies and Iris:

After the distribution, the remaining daylily plants are sold via a live auction, in which everyone in the club can participate. The current retail price of each plant is stated with bidding usually starting at \$25. Unlike club plants, auction-purchased daylilies do not have to be returned after two years. The meeting concludes with a live auction of beardless irises that, depending on availability, may include Siberians, Japanese, Laevigata, Spec-X, and Pseudata. Everyone may bid on these plants. Payment may be made by check or in cash.

4. GARDEN TOUR:

Held on a Saturday in July, our Garden Tour provides a perfect opportunity for club members to

showcase their gardens. The tour, which is open to club members and their invited guests, has in recent years featured 4-5 gardens in a fun-filled day with lunch at a local restaurant or park. Club members are encouraged to carpool because of limited available parking. All tour details, including host garden addresses, Google map and driving directions, and the lunch reservation deadline, are disseminated via the Newsletter, email, and mailed fliers but not via the website. In July 2023, CVIDS hosted the AHS Region 1 Summer Meeting. Heather and Jim Harroun (Illinois City, IL), Darrin and Shelly Lett (West Branch), Keith and Sally Riewerts (Long Grove), and Colleen and John Hansen (Wilton) opened up their gardens to visitors. Locations of garden tours undertaken in 2009-2022 can be found at: <http://www.cvids.org/gardentours.html>

5. FALL PLANT SALE:

CVIDS holds its second public plant sale on the third or fourth Saturday in August, selling plants donated by club members. Since 1990, this event has been held at a venue in Monticello, Iowa. Set-up starts at 8 a.m. with the sale beginning at 9 a.m. About noon, club members enjoy a potluck lunch. Please provide something to share. Members are asked to bring their own table service and drink to the potluck.

Members' Involvement:

Members are asked to donate daylilies, irises, and companion perennials (no woody stemmed plants e.g. lilac, raspberry, hydrangea, etc.) to this sale. Information about readying plants for sale can be found in Section B.1.

6. AUGUST SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS:

After lunch on the day of the Fall Plant Sale, CVIDS holds a brief business meeting before focusing upon its Silent and Live Auctions. These events are for members only and are not open to the public. The plants being auctioned on this occasion are those cultivars returning to the club that had been on loan to members for two years. In addition, there may be a few "stragglers" from previous years. Payment may be made by check or in cash.

Members' Responsibilities:

Mid-year, the silent auction chair will contact members having club plants due to return that year, inquiring about the number of fans available for auction. Based on data received, the chair will put together a spreadsheet of relevant information about the returning cultivars including minimum bids (usually approximately half the hybridizer's price). Members are responsible for getting their auction plants to Monticello in August. If unable to deliver them personally, they must make alternative arrangements for transport of their club plants to the auction.

Silent Auction:

Prior to this event, the auction plant list and bid sheet are distributed by the silent auction chair to the entire membership by e-mail and mail. These documents are also posted on the CVIDS website. Those interested in bidding in this auction are requested to complete the bid sheet, returning it to the chair by e-mail or mail by a stated deadline. No money is sent at this time. The chair notifies the winners before the fall sale about their successful bids. Winners, who will receive the largest double fan of the returned cultivars, must pick up and pay for their plants at the Monticello sale. If unable to do so personally, they should arrange for a proxy to collect and pay for their plants, letting the chair know of this arrangement. In the case of ties, the earliest postmark or e-mail wins.

Live Auction of Daylilies and Iris:

The remaining fans from the returned daylily club plants are then sold in a live auction, in which all club members present may bid. The day concludes with a blind auction of bearded iris.

7. HYBRIDIZERS' ROUNDUP:

An increasing number of CVIDS members are creating new daylily varieties by hybridization. Since 2011, the program for our October meeting has featured the Hybridizers' Roundup, which gives these members an opportunity to present photos of their latest introductions and seedlings. Any member who is hybridizing is encouraged to present their creations at this meeting.

8. FALL BANQUET:

The Fall Banquet is customarily held on the first or second Saturday of November. The meal is usually served at noon, but members are encouraged to come early and mingle, sign up to win a door prize, and vote in the photo contest. The meal is provided at no cost to paid-up members (i.e. dues paid by April 1 of that year). Guests are also welcome but are asked to pay for their meal. Reservations are required. A brief business meeting is held at which club officers are elected. CVIDS has a tradition of inviting renowned hybridizers to be their banquet speaker (for list, see: <http://www.cvids.org/banquetspeakers.html>).

9. BETTY MILLER PHOTO CONTEST:

Our annual Betty Miller Photo Contest was started in 2006 in honor of Past President and hybridizer Betty Miller. She had a passion for photographing daylilies and mentored several CVIDS members on how to take good photos. Her photos were featured in "*Eureka*" and daylily catalogs from 2001-2004. In spring, the President calls for a volunteer to organize the photo contest. The volunteer decides upon the number of categories and publicizes the competition rules via the Newsletter, e-mail, Facebook Group, and the website. For example, the 2023 contest had the following categories: (1) "Red" daylily category, in honor of Verne Moore, (2) Gerald's Large Ruffles, in honor of Gerald Hobbs, (3) Any daylily bloom that is not a double, unusual form or spider, (4) Doubles, (5) Unusual forms and spiders, (6) Hybridizers' 2023 seedlings (no registered cultivars), (7) Clumps (photo must include daylilies or irises), (8) Landscapes (photo must include daylilies or irises), (9) Novelties (e.g. garden sculptures, birdhouses, animals, etc., but the photo must include daylilies or irises), and (10) Iris. Names of winners as well as their daylily photos are posted on the website and recorded in the Newsletter. Beginning in 2024, \$15 will be awarded to First Place in each category, \$10 to Second Place, and \$50 to the Grand Prize Winner.

C. ZOOM MEETINGS:

For several years, the club has offered the possibility of attending meetings via Zoom. Members have found this option attractive when the meeting is located at too great a distance from their homes or if they feel anxious about driving under poor weather conditions. A Zoom link is forwarded to members by e-mail 1-2 days prior to each meeting. To minimize interference and background noise, please keep your microphone muted. If you wish to ask a question during the business meeting or speaker's presentation, please do so via Zoom Chat, and your question will be posed by the Zoom moderator at a convenient time.

D. CVIDS NEWSLETTER:

Since its inception, CVIDS has sent out a newsletter to its members. Because our members are spread out over a large geographical area in southeast Iowa and northwest Illinois, many members cannot attend all the meetings. Therefore, the newsletter plays a vital role in helping our widely scattered members stay

connected with the group and informed about upcoming activities. At present, the newsletter is sent out approximately 9-10 times each year. Most members receive their newsletter electronically, but a printed copy is mailed to members who do not have access to e-mail. The newsletter usually contains minutes of the previous meeting (and of any recent Board meeting), a calendar of upcoming events, an agenda and driving directions for the next meeting, and any other material that needs to be distributed to all members. Recent newsletters have included updates on preparations for the Region One meeting, a column called "Meet the Members" that features short biosketches about individual members, the winners of the Betty Miller Photo Contest, and occasional articles on topics of interest to CVIDS members. Another section titled "From the President" provides an opportunity for the president to give a pep talk, emphasize a topic or an event, recognize/thank, or whatever. All members are encouraged to send contributions of any length to the newsletter editor. From time to time, the editor will solicit short contributions on a specific topic or question. Individual responses will be gathered and presented as a summary article. If you have an idea for a topic that you would like to see covered in the newsletter, please contact the editor. Past newsletters can be accessed at: <http://www.cvids.org/newsletter.html>

E. CVIDS WEBSITE:

Established in 2008, our website (<http://www.cvids.org>) fulfills many functions. Together with e-mail communications, it has proven beneficial in reducing the costs of printing and mailing newsletters and has facilitated transfer of information between club members. It is a one-stop location where members can check the club calendar, see what's on the agenda for the next meeting, and read minutes of past club and Board meetings. Additionally, the website serves as the club archives, providing access to CVIDS Newsletters dating back to the club's first meeting in March 1990 as well as housing the club plants database. There is also a membership list that allows you to discover other daylily and iris enthusiasts that live close by. You may enjoy perusing the numerous photos taken at our sales and auctions, garden tours, and fall banquets. The webmaster would be delighted to post pictures of your gardens, favorite cultivars, introductions, and seedlings. Finally, our website provides useful links to other daylily and iris growers and organizations at state, regional, and (inter)national levels. If you would like to contribute materials for the website (e.g. photos, notices for the bulletin board about upcoming meetings or garden walks), or if you have any suggestions for improving the website, please contact the webmaster (Jonathan Poulton; jonathan-poulton@uiowa.edu).

F. CVIDS FACEBOOK GROUP:

Early in 2014, a CVIDS Facebook Group began exploring the potential of reaching members via this social media platform. This group now numbers 55 CVIDS members and 101 non-members invited by current members, or people located in Iowa and/or AHS Regional and National committee members. If already a Facebook user, paste in the following URL: <https://facebook.com/groups/704051526282058/>. If you are not, create a Facebook account and then join our group. We have this Facebook group to help members communicate between each other and for them to encourage others to join the Facebook group and then join CVIDS in real life. Please contact our moderator (Diann Pavelka; dpavelka@iowatelecom.net) if you have questions or suggestions for its improvement.

G. OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING:

You are cordially invited to volunteer to help run the club. As the Bylaws indicate, CVIDS activities are largely organized by the Board, which consists of elected officers and several committee chairs approved by the Board. The elected officers are the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate Past President. The Vice President, President and Past President all serve one-year terms. The Secretary and Treasurer serve two-year terms and cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms. Alternatively, you should consider serving

as a committee chair (e.g. Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Membership Chair, Club Plant Chair, Silent Auction Chair, Hospitality Chair, Program Chair, Special Events Chair, and Marketing Chair), for which terms are variable. The responsibilities of officers and committee chairs can be accessed here: <http://www.cvids.org/officersresponsibilities.pdf>. Large numbers of volunteers are also required to assist at special events (i.e. plant sales, club plant distribution, silent and live auctions, fall banquet, and photo contest). For example, members can help at the May and August plant sales by setting up and taking down tables, organizing donated plants, answering customers' questions, bagging plants, assisting the treasurer with sales, setting up the potluck, and clean-up operations. If you're interested in volunteering in some capacity, please sign up at meetings or contact a Board member. A list of current Board members can be accessed at: [http://www.cvids.org/2024 CVIDS Board.html](http://www.cvids.org/2024%20CVIDS%20Board.html)

H. BAD WEATHER POLICY:

We always worry about you traveling in bad weather. No meeting is worth attending if your safety is at risk. Sometimes a storm is localized, in which case the meeting may be held by those who can attend. However, if a major storm is forecast, one big enough that nearby events are canceling in advance, you should consider our meeting canceled. If this happens, the Board will make every effort to notify members via e-mail, our website, and Facebook. If in doubt, don't set out before checking these sources of information. For those not connected to the internet, a club officer will telephone with relevant information. Member calls should be directed to the current president.

I. AMERICAN DAYLILY SOCIETY (ADS):

CVIDS members are encouraged to become members of the American Daylily Society (ADS), a non-profit organization founded in 1946. This Society is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes, and especially to promote, encourage, and foster the development and improvement of the genus *Hemerocallis* and public interest therein. Its website URL is: <https://daylilies.org>. The ADS has divided North America into 15 regions. Region One, where the Society was originally founded in Shenandoah, Iowa, consists of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the Canadian Province of Manitoba. For information about Region One activities, please consult the website: <https://www.ahsregion1.org>. When you join ADS, you receive access to members-only privileges including the ADS Membership Portal (<https://www.daylilynetwork.org/>) as well as *The Daylily Journal*. This quarterly publication is a colorful, informative magazine featuring: (i) pictures of new cultivars, (ii) how-to articles on care, feeding, and hybridizing, and (iii) news of upcoming ADS meetings and conventions. You also receive the Region One newsletter *The Daylily Pioneer* that includes articles and information on our regional activities.

Other ADS membership benefits include: (i) attending regional meetings and national conventions that offer garden tours, (ii) lectures, judges' clinics and workshops, and (iii) a chance to see the newest and best of today's daylilies. The most recent Region One Summer Regional hosted by CVIDS was held in 2023 in Muscatine featuring the gardens of CVIDS members Heather and Jim Harroun, Darrin and Shelly Lett, Keith and Sally Riewerts, and Colleen and John Hansen.

A very special privilege and opportunity for CVIDS members is to visit ADS display gardens throughout the country. These gardens showcase some of the finest in current and/or historical collections of daylilies. As of 2024, the following CVIDS members have National Display Gardens:

- 1) Blair Historical Daylily Garden (William Blair and Virginia Houser), Iowa City, IA
- 2) Heather Harroun (Gnomon's Land Gardens), Illinois City, IL

- 3) Barb and Bob Papenhausen (Barb's Daylily & Hosta Garden), East Moline, IL
- 4) The Quad City Botanical Center, Rock Island, IL
- 5) Nancy Rash, Washington, IA
- 6) Jackie Westhoff (My Savanna Nursery), Shellsburg, IA

J. AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY (AIS):

The American Iris Society's mission statement from their website is: "The Mission of The American Iris Society is to organize and disseminate knowledge of the genus *Iris*, while fostering its preservation, enjoyment, and continued development. The AIS welcomes all people regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status, ethnic background, gender, or sexual orientation." Here is a link if you are interested in joining the American Iris Society: <https://www.irises.org/about-ais/> To learn more about the benefits of AIS membership, please access: <https://www.irises.org/aismembers>. If you are attracted to one particular type of *Iris*, there are different sub-groups within this Society. You can find more information at: <https://www.irises.org/about-ais/sections-cooperating-societies/>

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