

**Houston Hemerocallis Society  
(Since 1953)**

**Part III Highlights  
"In the Beginning"**

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As we look back in Houston Hemerocallis Society (HHS) history we find the following leaders through 1964. The President's term to conduct meetings was from September through May each year. The Presidents of HHS were:

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Mrs. E.W. Wood        | 1953-54 |
| Mrs. C. C. Huff       | 1954-55 |
| Mrs. A.V. Williams    | 1955-56 |
| Mrs. H.B. McKnight    | 1956-57 |
| Unknown               | 1957-58 |
| Mrs. Mildred Schlumpf | 1958-59 |
| Mr. Carl Sauer        | 1959-61 |
| Miss Dixie Harris     | 1961-63 |
| Mrs. J.W. Alexander   | 1963-64 |

In May 1961, a group of HHS members decided they wanted to meet during the day time. Therefore, a branch of the Houston Hemerocallis Society became organized as the Daylighters. The following information was found in a Region 6 Newsletter by Ray Houston, Region 6 Historian, and reported on January 19, 2012, "Houston has organized a new daytime group, with Miss Dorothy French as President. Many belonging to both Societies but some will be reached that could not attend the meetings at night. We will expect a report from them in the Fall Newsletter." Newsletters for 1964 are not available at this time. In July 1964, Houston Area Daylily Society (HADS) became an independent organization. The HADS yearbook states the

first President was Dolly Wheeler 1965-66. In 1981, HADS changed their calendar year to January 1 through December 31. Clarice Foster served as President from September 1, 1978 through December 31, 1980. Frances Schneider was the next president 1981-82. Some folks were and continue to be members of both Societies.

The Houston Hemerocallis Society and the Houston Area Daylily Society have a joint flower show each May. They take turns as being in charge of scheduling and planning the show with the other Society assisting.

From the pages of time and my memory some of the HHS Presidents' gardens were on weekend tours. I remember visiting the Mildred Schlumpf and Carl Sauer gardens as a guest.

The following is offered as a background check on the origin of daylilies. The history of the daylily had its beginnings in Japan, China, and Korea where it was a native plant grown for beauty and medicinal use. Confucius (551-479 BC) writes of it. In 1688, Chen Hao-tzu describes it in a treatise. In 1753, Lennaeus in Europe called them "Hemerocallis." They came to America in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The *fulva* was the tawny colored daylily and the *flava* was the lemon colored daylily. The Japanese cultivar "Kwanzo" was growing in America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century American, Dr. A. B. Stout hybridized in 1917 *Hemerocallis* 'Green Kwanzo' and in 1947 hybridized *H.* 'Variegated Kwanzo'.

From history on the Internet the following was gleaned; Dr. Arlow Stout work from 1911-48

at the New York Botanical Garden and with 37 years of research crossed 50,000 daylilies. He registered 97 hybrids. Dr. Stout created the first red daylily. In 1950, AHS established an annual Stout Award in his honor. Dr. Stout was born in Albion, Wisconsin, on March 10, 1876, and died in 1957. When in New York be sure and visit the Arlow B. Stout Garden at the New York Botanical Garden established in 1987 in his memory. Also visit the library to see Dr. Stout's notes and watercolors.

AHS history is revealed in a Region 6 history by Lula Mae Purnell. It tells of a gathering of 5,000 flower lovers on July 13, 1946, at the Henry Field Seed Company which resulted in the "Midwest Hemerocallis Society," being formed.

On May 16-19, 1955, at the Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the name was changed to the American Hemerocallis Society.

The HHS history will be continued at the February 2012 meeting. We hope to feature the 1963-64 President of HHS.

Have you checked out the Region 6 web site to see HHS History posted by Ray Houston, as I mail it to him?

On display at the January 2012 meeting is an article from the *New York Times* dated July 3, 1994, about Dr. Stout.