

BUILDING ENTHUSIASM

By Peggy Cathey

This Spring Dan and I had the joy of having young people in our garden during the daylily bloom. In May, two of our great-grandchildren came for a visit.



Waylon and Kinsley Ann hiding under *H. 'Walking Stick'*, Eskine-Eskine, 2008.

Kinsley Ann and her brother Waylon enjoyed playing under some of the taller daylilies. I try to never miss an opportunity to teach the young about gardening, about daylilies

Waylon is only two, so maybe a bit young to learn about hybridizing but his sister, Kinsley, is

four, so I thought it was time to start her training. She wasn't quite ready to understand about tetraploids and diploids, so I just let her pick out two of her favorite flowers, and I checked to make sure she had two of the same ploidy. She chose *H. 'Little Print'*, Salter-E.H., 1992 for the pollen parent (a mini

diploid) and *H. 'Micro Burst'*, Trimmer-J., 2002 (a small double diploid) as the pod parent. I showed her how to take a stamen from one flower and dab the pollen onto the sticky tip of the pistil of another. To help ensure success, I had her cross both ways. We were excited to have a seed pod form on both crosses!



Kinsley carefully dabbing the pollen onto *H. 'Micro Burst'*

Flowers Kinsley chose



H. 'Micro Burst'



H. 'Little Print'



H. 'Micro Burst' seedpod day 2 after pollinating.

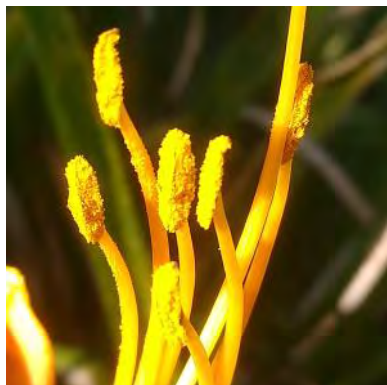


H. 'Little Print' seedpod 3 weeks after pollinating.

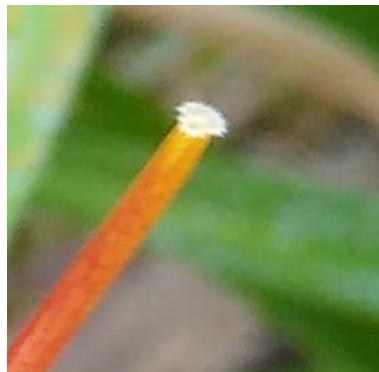
In June, we opened our garden for our club members (Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society) and other guests who subscribe to our monthly newsletter. Our club's two youth members and their younger brother attended with their parents. When I greeted them as they walked up the driveway, I asked if they might want to learn how to hybridize daylilies. They were ready to start right then. I gave them a chance to visit with our other members and guests since it had been so long since we were able to get together.



I left them alone to wander the gardens for a bit, then took them to our front yard where some of my favorite daylilies were blooming. I told them about diploids and tetraploids and that the two types would not cross. I showed them how to



Stamens from the "daddy" flower
fluffy with pollen



Pistil on the "mommy" flower with
it's sticky white tip

read the plant markers to find which were "tets" and which were "dips." I then let them search through the flowers and tags to pick out the ones they wanted to hybridize. I showed them how to take a stamen with its fluffy yellow pollen from the "daddy flower" over to the one they wanted to be the "mommy flower" and dab the pollen onto the tip of the white, sticky pistil.

I gave them each two twist ties (each had their own color), so we could mark the ones they hybridized.

Isabella chose two large-flowered tets- *H. 'Hip To Be Square'*, Norris-R., 2007, (polymerous), and *H. 'Thomas Tew'*, Stamile, 2008.

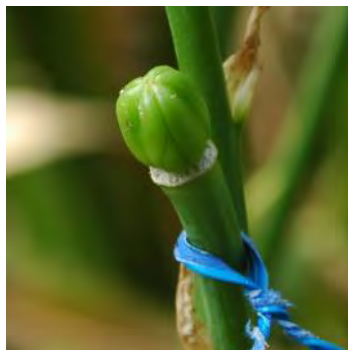
Flowers Isabella chose



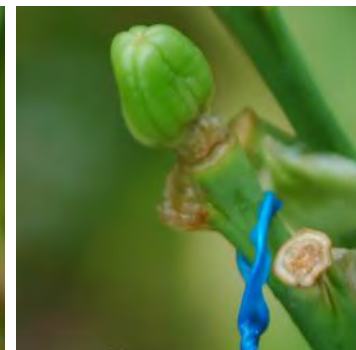
H. 'Hip To Be Square'



H. 'Thomas Tew'



Seedpod on *H. 'Hip To Be Square'*



Seedpod on *H. 'Thomas Tew'*

Victoria chose two extra-large dips- *H. 'Star Over Oz'*, Herrington-K., 2005 (an unusual form), and *H. 'Orions Band'*, Murphy, 2006 (a spider form).



Isabella has taken a stamen from *H. 'Star Over Oz'* and is putting it on the pistil of *H. 'Thomas Tew'*



Victoria, pollinating *H. 'Orions Band'* with the pollen from *H. 'Star Over Oz'*.

See Enthusiasm on page 20

Flowers Victoria chose



H. 'Star Over Oz'

H. 'Orians Band'



Seedpod on H. 'Star Over Oz'

Seedpod on H. 'Orians Band'

The girls' younger brother, Adrian, and their dad, Tony, followed me to a different garden for him to do his hybridizing. Adrian chose two large-flowered tets, *H. 'Over The Mountain'*, Stamile, 2007 and *H. 'Winter Masquerade'*, Salter, 1993.



Tony takes photos while son, Adrian, dabs pollen from *H. 'Winter Masquerade'* onto *H. 'Over The Mountain'*.

Flowers Adrian chose



H. 'Over the Mountain'

H. 'Winter Masquerade'



Seedpod on H. 'Over the Mountain'

Seedpod on H. 'Winter Masquerade'

I had them make the crosses both ways (each being a pod parent for one and a pollen parent for the other) hoping for more success as not all daylilies are fertile. Before they started, I explained the importance of trying to improve branching and bud count by choosing parent plants that have the qualities they want to enhance. We talked about how each seed will be a completely new daylily, and that it may or may not resemble the parent plants.

I am excited to report 100% success! Dan and I will keep watch on the developing seed pods and pick them when they turn brown, but before they split open and spill the seeds. After letting them dry thoroughly, we will refrigerate them until September, when we will give them to the kiddos and explain how to plant them.

It is so exciting to go into the garden when new seedlings are opening for the first time. It is like Christmas! I love seeing all of the unique gifts we have helped to create.

It is my hope that some of my enthusiasm for growing daylilies and selecting which daylilies to cross pollinate to create new cultivars has rubbed off on our young hybridizers, and the love of daylilies and gardening will stay with them throughout their lives.