

AMERICAN HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER - REGION 6 (TEXAS - NEW MEXICO)
January - February - March, 1974

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Youth Directors

All Local Society Presidents

RVP's MESSAGE

May I wish each of you a belated successful New Year. This season we'll be anxiously looking for many new and novel things as we try to go about our pursuit of daylily watching. Among these will be gasoline stations that have gasoline, supply stores that have fertilizer, and growers who can grow daylilies with or without either. It may just be the year to really evaluate plants in our own yards, since we may have problems getting anywhere else! I can see the increased value of our Robins, since the views of people we know and share with are worth more than what some unknown "expert" may have to say. So why not consider joining a Robin or getting more Robins established? If curtailed visitation is brought about by our energy shortages, this could be one way to increase our knowledge of what others are doing.

Speaking of energy - there seems to be no such shortage among our hybridizers, does there? Doesn't it make you feel proud to see the recognized success of our present Region 6 hybridizers? Some of our Region's good work has been overlooked in the past, and I for one am gratified that recognition is at last coming our way. Of course, with varieties such as BITSY, GREEN FLUTTERS, and BERTIE FERRIS, all out working so hard, who can ignore them? The promise of things to come is equally encouraging as we recognize the improved performance of our hybridizers. Encouragement is the secret to motivating people to perform well. Let us continue to support these people wherever and whoever they might be.

Our Region 6 Meeting is being planned for us in Houston by those hard-working folk, so let's plan to support them, also. The dates are Friday, May 24, and Saturday, May 25. Plan your trip so that you cannot only get the maximum gasoline mileage but also the maximum daylily mileage, as well. Perhaps several can pool their resources. You know - things like cars, money, deodorant, etc., so that you might get acquainted not only with the new daylilies but each other as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the folks who have been so kind and cooperative since I've been RVP. The encouraging letters have meant much, and the willingness of people to help has gone even further. The cooperation of my new officers is fantastic, and I sincerely hope I can do as well with my job as they are doing with theirs.

So with all you good folks behind me and Region 6 I cannot see anything but good ahead for us all!

Sincerely,

Tom J. Hughes

I wish to express my family's deepest gratitude to the many letters, donations to various memorials, prayers, and concern expressed by so many upon learning of my mother's death on January 13, 1974. She was active and alert until sometime after 8 a.m. on Friday the 11th, when she suffered a massive stroke while in bed. She did not regain consciousness, and I assume she did not suffer until we lost her on Sunday night. Two Mama and Daddy Tom were married on October 13, 1908, and had a long and fruitful marriage. Daddy Tom, who is now 85 years "young", is adjusting beautifully, and so are the rest of us. Because the "Great Hybridizer", who some day will show us pure whites and purples and other wonders, gathers flowers for his bouquet, we know He took a choice bloom when he collected my daddy's wife.

Tom Hughes

RAMBLING THOUGHTS IN FEBRUARY

Edna Lankart

In case any of you are thinking it is easy to write an interesting article smack in the middle of Winter, with nothing to inspire you, I challenge you to try it. While we have more spare time to write during the Winter months, the inspiration just isn't there except during bloom season. I know Winter lasts months longer for daylily growers than it does for just ordinary folks, and it is even longer for the poor hybridizer who is anxiously awaiting his next crop of "hopefuls" - and wouldn't life be dull if we didn't have this to look forward to! Of course, there are other hobbies and "fun things", but with a hybridizer - who has the time for them?

I am glad to report that all of my daylily beds are really neat for the time being. My "Assistant," Steve, went over them all and even took all of the dried and dead foliage off. This was burned, as it probably had some pesky insects wintering over in it. All of the Winter grass and weeds are gone, but others will probably come up before Spring - and you fellow members of the "weed society" can just buzz off as I have my weeds in a special place where they show up better.

COMMENTS ON THE POPULARITY POLL - I was happy to note that we are gradually upgrading the Popularity Poll, as some of the real "oldies" have finally dropped by the wayside. I suppose one of the oldest on the list is JAKE RUSSELL, which was registered in 1956, as was CARTWHEELS. These are two that I would certainly list as ALL AMERICAN daylilies. An established clump of these two will compare well and TOP many of the newer varieties. I found many of my favorites listed this time but, sad to say, I found nine that would not do well in my area and seventeen that I no longer grow - some I no longer cared for and did not bother to restock them when all were sold. LIME PAINTED LADY was registered way back 20 years ago, and while many of the later varieties in this color have a more perfect bloom, it is still liked by many and makes a good garden show. Note that there were only seven on the list from Region 6. Let's hope we get more in the future, I must admit, however, it is hard to compete with the MacMillan daylilies. We are certainly proud of our Winnifords for winning the Donn Fischer Memorial Award on their BERTIE FERRIS, which is certainly deserving of the award. Also on their three J. C. Awards on BOZO, LITTLE GREENIE, and POJO. This garden promises great things, and another I am most anxious to see is the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Madison Norton. I hear they are getting some gorgeous seedlings and why not - since they buy all the best to be had. When you buy the best to work with, and have that wonderful soil Madison mixes up, why shouldn't you come up with some great seedlings? There are so many good gardens to see in the Dallas area that I hope I can get there this year. If not, I'll see them during the 1975 Dallas Regional Meeting.

THERE'S GOOD NEWS AND THERE'S BAD NEWS - The BAD NEWS is that commercial fertilizer is getting out of sight. All I have seen here is 8-8-8, and that doesn't amount to a great deal since that leaves 76% of "inert nothing", and it has gone up way over 100% since last season. The GOOD NEWS is that I have had much better luck with adding compost and manure. (Actually I do not mean real compost. Not having a compost shredder, Steve rakes the dried Oak leaves into shallow ditches and runs the lawnmower through them until they are cut into small pieces. This is mixed with manure and turned under between plants and in vacant areas). I have found the water soluble

fertilizers available in formulas more suitable to daylilies - for instance CARL POOL is especially good for Texas. Their B-R 61 has an analysis of 9-59-8 and requires 2 level tablespoons per gallon of water for roots of plants or 1 level tablespoon per gallon for foliar feeding. I will not have time to water all plants with this, but I certainly plan to use it on the best.

MORE GOOD NEWS - All of the rain we have had this Winter will make for another good bloom season, but the BAD NEWS is that it has ruined a lot of my markers - Mildew has turned them black. This calls for a lot of cleaning and remarking - but when the weather is warmer. GOOD NEWS - if gas is rationed it may keep me home more and let me evaluate my own seedlings. BAD NEWS - if it is rationed it will certainly spoil our fun. No hybridizer can know if they are accomplishing anything unless they are able to compare their seedlings with those of other hybridizers. While hybridizing is a fun hobby to most, it comes under the heading of hard work, and if no one sees your seedlings - what have you accomplished. Seeing a great seedling in someone else's garden excites me nearly as much as seeing it in my own seedling patch. While visiting the Edgar Browns last bloom season, I found one of Edgar's new tetraploids to be of such exquisite beauty that I could sit for hours and just look at it. A large creped and ruffled lemon yellow diploid just has to be the widest segments I have seen and was sheer perfection on a first year bloom. If it looks as good this year, they will have the best yellow I have seen to date. You must admit that a yellow really has to be SOMETHING to stand out today.

My friend, Jim Terry of Mississippi, often writes up a very interesting article on his views of that certain season, and I am fortunate enough to receive a copy. He is able to choose what he calls the "Daylily of the Year." I wish I could do this, but this is the best I can do. The two diploids I liked best - for reasons I will add - were MEXICALI ROSE and FABULOUS FAVORITE. They both have perfect branching, bloom over a long period of time, and are colors I love. BUT the main reason I choose them is that they seem to be some of those GREAT crosses that produce some real beauties. I am most excited about the many perfectly formed shades of red they produced in 1973 and look forward to more this season. Now I shall pick more "Daylilies of the Year." It was very hard to choose between LITTLE SHOWOFF and LITTLE BUSINESS as the best small clump, but I will have to go along with the first one. BOZO will also be in there when it gets into a larger clump. These were the best clumps, but I will have to admit LITTLE GRAPETTE was the most beautiful bloom - but who has a clump of it yet? When it comes to doubles, it was a close race between KEITH KENNON, a very pale pink; DOUBLE LOVE, a peachy pink; and DOUBLE GLAMOUR, a lovely bright cherry rose. Who could leave out DOUBLE CUTIE - a perfect hose-on-hose chartreuse and low for the front of the border. I hate to choose my tetraploids of the year, but in a clump, PROMISED PINK made a great show - followed by QUEENS GRACE and KINGS CLOAK. In addition to their garden beauty, they are all good parents. For actual beauty, I will have to choose the perfectly formed red BARBAROSSA (but who has a clump of this) so can only judge the bloom. These are my selections for "Daylily of the Year." (Jim, I do not see how you can choose just one). I just happened to notice a great percentage of those I chose as my favorites were TEXAS daylilies, even though I know there are a lot of Texas beauties I have not seen or grown. Let's hope we can get around to see more Texas daylilies this season. And incidentally, see each other somewhere along the Texas Hem trails.

Tear off and mail to: Mrs. Russell Turner, 7140 Appleton, Houston, Texas 77022

Yes, I want to attend the Region 6 Meeting in Houston, May 24-25, 1974.

Registration fee - \$20.00 (After May 1 - \$25.00)

Enclosed \$ _____ for _____ registrations

Robin _____ Region 6 Officer _____

AUSTIN HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Almost the total membership of the Austin Hemerocallis Society participated in the annual Christmas party and election meeting held in the suburban home of Col. and Mrs. Jack (Alyne) Fisher. The following officers were elected for 1974:

President.....Harold C. Kilpatrick (re-election)
1st Vice-President.....Mrs. Jack Fisher
2nd Vice-President.....Mrs. Harold C. Kilpatrick
Secretary.....Miss Mary Catherine Wilcox
TreasurerB. F. Ater

Recruitment of new members is always a valuable byproduct of the annual show of the Austin Hemerocallis Society. Four new members for the American Hemerocallis Society were signed up during the 1973 show, three of these becoming members of the local Society. The 1974 show will be held in the Austin Area Garden Center, June 1.

WHAT'S COOKING? - DAYLILIES!

By Ann Valentine, Houston Post Editor

Blanche Gore, head of the Home Economics Department at the University of Houston, tested and tasted these recipes:

AS VEGETABLE - Gather the unopened flower buds when they are nearly full size, boil only a few minutes, then butter, season, and serve like green beans.

HORS D'OEUVRES - Dip the buds, or the opened blossoms, in rich egg batter. Fry in very hot fat to golden brown.

IN SOUP or STEW - Daylily buds and blossoms can be added during the last few minutes of cooking soups or stews. Like okra, daylilies impart a glutinous quality and the flavor is akin to asparagus. Cooking with daylilies is a secret long used in households in Mexico City.

DAYLILIES ORIENTAL - Fry 1/2 pound of fresh pork, cut into bite-size pieces, until browned. Add one quart water, 2 tablespoons soy sauc, and 1 teaspoon salt. Cover and cook slowly for about an hour or until the pork is very tender, replenishing the water as needed. Add 1 packed cup of withered daylily blossoms and 1 teaspoon monosodium glutamate. Cook only a few more minutes, until the blooms are tender. Serve with rice.

DAYLILIES, buds, and, or, flowers can be dried for use in cookery later. Spread the freshly gathered buds or withered flowers on paper in a warm room. In about a week, depending on weather conditions, they will be dry. Seal in fruit jars and keep in a cool place. Add to soup or stews just before the dish is ready to serve and bring to a boil. Dried daylilies also may be cooked into a sauce for meat and vegetable dishes.

ROBIN DEPARTMENT

Lula Mae Purnell

I am in need of a few more people who would like to join a Robin. I have two names - one as a leader who would like to form a new group.

Reports from our Read Red Robin would make anyone like to be a Robin. With Mae Collie as their leader, that is the most live wire bunch I ever saw. They not only write, they visit, and have a get-together once or twice a year. (The last one was with their leader in Brownwood, October 13). They also exchange Hems. They all write such newsy and interesting letters it's hard to pick out just a few things from them. But here are a few notes you might enjoy.

Francine Hensley - "It has been very dry, but the bloom season was the greatest, and each year I marvel at the beauty and stamina of our wonderful flower. I have never seen so many proliferations in my life - I had a proliferation that bloomed. I had scapes with seed pods just about matured when new growth came out at the base of the seed pod and several blooms came from that. I am not very scientific about my crosses, but I have fun, and I believe the Hems have fun, too." (Don't you like that last line)?

Christine Short - "The Hems that bloomed the longest for me this year were BITSY, CHERRY CHIMES, GREEN FLUTTER, HEAVENLY HAVILAND, IRENE BONNER, LULA MAE PURNELL, ORANGE JAKE RUSSELL, and PRESIDENT RICE."

Rodger Croker - "Bordering my late mid-seasons are several small clumps of MYRA HENSON. Until now, it was just a daylily, but it started blooming early mid-season and is now sending up its third set of scapes."

Pyrtle Garrison - In the hospital with a broken knee, tells how her neighbors kept her garden watered and fertilized. They even planted some new plants that arrived.

Mae Collie - "I still like Old COSSETTE and GLASS SLIPPER. They make VELVET GEM stand out in the garden. LITTLE BLACK DEVIL I am saving as it is a very odd black red sent to me by Jimmy Kilpatrick."

Keep the letters flying, folks.

TEXAS BUS TO FLORIDA

Lula Mae Purnell

Plans are not complete for our bus trip to Florida, but we will leave on either Sunday May 12, or Monday, May 13. This 55 mph law certainly means we will have to cut out some things we had planned to do. Ken can drive only ten hours per day. Also, more members want to come directly home after the Convention. So we will get back in Dallas on Monday, May 20. The government says that because of the energy crisis, a 48-passenger bus should carry 40 passengers. We are planning to spend one night in New Orleans. We will visit the Munson and Clunnis gardens on Wednesday on our way "in." Other plans are still in the planning stage. Mitch will have charge of our first day-out picnic. (The food, that is)!

I just want you to know that we will work everything in that we can for us to have our usual fun and fellowship. Clarise is preparing our songbooks. You may remember that the small deposit of \$5.00 made to hold your seat on the bus goes into the "kitty" if for any reason you cannot go. We would appreciate a deposit of \$25.00 by March 15 toward payment on our motel rooms. I expect to have more complete plans soon.

Ruth and I will be getting out a letter to all who are interested, so best wishes to the Bus Family.

FROM DOWN PLEASANTON WAY

Pearl Howard

After three months of cold, dry weather we've had nearly an inch of rain. December brought us several days of freezing weather, which made even the evergreen Hems look bad. But they have really come out and are growing like it was April instead of the last of January.

The Happy Time Daylily Society continues to be up-and-going. We meet every month, climaxing the year with a lovely Christmas party. This is a covered dish luncheon where we exchange daylilies and have fine fellowship.

The last one was held in the lovely home of a member. Her double garage was beautifully decorated and served as our dining room. For the program we had an impressive installation service conducted by Cora Offer of San Antonio. As the charge was given, she presented each officer with a potted daylily from her own picturesque garden.

At this meeting we were honored to have as our guest, Margaret Kane of San Antonio. She is the only surviving Texan who is a Charter Member of the American Hemerocallis Society. Mrs. Kane is still young and alert and enthusiastic about improving our favorite flower.

One of the most unifying factors of our group is our project - the Daylily Triangle at the Northwest "corner" of town. The city furnishes the water and club members keep it worked. We now have ten sacks of sheep manure to spread at our next work day. Come by sometime and see us and our Triangle.

Mrs. Louise Oliver is our re-elected President.

GULF COAST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Mrs. L. A. Nelson

We were saddened by the death of one of our beloved growers, Mr. Grover C. Comstock, of Beaumont, Texas.

Besides our weekly garden-hopping in our area, we have tentatively planned our annual Louisiana bus trip. We have confirmation to visit Jo-Gus Gardens of New Iberia, Louisiana; Louise Simone, Lafayette, Louisiana; and Paul Kennon, Lafayette, Louisiana. Also, several of our members are planning to attend the National Convention in Florida.

Abraham Lincoln said, "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."

HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY OF DALLAS

Roberta Schnitzius

The Hemerocallis Society of Dallas held its monthly meeting on December 16 at the home of Roberta Schnitzius, 6330 Marquita, Dallas, Texas. After the business meeting our annual Christmas program and party was held. A Christmas story titled, "A Gift is for Giving," was read and gifts exchanged. After refreshments were served, the 13 members present visited with one another and looked over the garden.

The January meeting of the Hemerocallis Society of Dallas was held at the regular meeting place, the community room of St. Thomas Church at Mockingbird Lane and Inwood, January 20. Business meeting was held, followed by a program of slides from the American Hemerocallis Society Library at DeQueen, Arkansas. Our meeting was brightened by the lovely slides of all varieties new and old, gardens and arrangements. Refreshments followed.

SAN ANTONIO HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Mrs. Paul J. Offer

The December meeting of the San Antonio Hemerocallis Society was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Offer, since Mrs. Vance P. Hill suffered a heart attack and was confined to the hospital. (Mrs. Hill, we all hope you will be back with us soon. We miss you).

Many lovely plants and daylilies were exchanged for our Christmas meeting.

Mrs. Louise Oliver of the Happy Times Daylily Society - also our own treasured member - installed the new officers as follows:

- President Mrs. Gus Christy
- Vice President Mrs. Ruby Lee Whitfield
- Secretary Mrs. Ruth Allen
- Treasurer Mrs. Sandra Chaney
- Mrs. Paul J. Offer..... Garden Center Representative.

Plans are now being made for the activities of 1974.

The social hour was enjoyed by all due to the efforts of the hostesses: Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Offer and Mrs. Lillian Parkinson.

ALL ABOARD FOR HOUSON

May 24-25, 1974

Hurry and get your reservations in for the Meeting in Houston. We are all aware of the energy crisis, but there are always ways to get around such things. There are the buses we can ride, and for those within a tank full of gasoline from home, the tank can be filled on Saturday. Plan now to come to the Region 6 Meeting. We are planning entertainment and gardens full of beautiful daylilies. The daylilies have liked the wet winter - they look wonderful.

You may make your room reservation through the Royal Coach Motor Hotel, Southwest Freeway at Sharpstown, Houston, Texas 77036. Rooms are - single - (one person) \$21.00; double - (two persons) \$24.00; triple - (three persons) \$24.00; and quad - (four persons) \$32.00. You still have time to get in on the first 50 to register for the special daylilies. Registration fee is \$20.00 until May 1. After May 1 the fee goes up to \$25.00. We will be looking for you come in May. Please don't disappoint us.

HOUSTON HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Mrs. Bertha Cone

On March 28, 1974, the Houston Hemerocallis Society will have as guest speaker Kenneth G. Durio, Louisiana Nursery, Opelousas, Louisiana. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. in the Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive. The speaker's topic will be "Hybridizing and Landscaping with Daylilies." He will show slides of diploids and tetraploids.

Our money-making projects for the club have been Hem plant sales at a mall. Last year we cleared \$160. Our club donated \$100 to the American Hemerocallis Society for the new checklist.

A project of the Houston Council of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., is the Touch and Grow Garden. They have received 121 Hem plants from our club to date, and we are to donate 50 more plants. This garden is for blind and multiple handicapped children. These plants were donated by members Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wheeler, Mrs. Bertha Cone, and Jack Carpenter.

CENTRAL TEXAS HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Popularity Poll

First - JAKE RUSSELL
Second - WINNING WAYS (Tied) TWENTY THIRD PSALM
Third - WINSOME LADY

Officers for 1974-1975

The Central Texas Hemerocallis Society re-elected the following officers to serve for 1974-1975:

President F. D. Coppin
First Vice-President Mrs. Claude Gore
Second Vice-President Mrs. James McBride
Secretary Mrs. Hugh Hardcastle
Treasurer W. H. Goodnight
Historian F. D. Coppin
Mrs. Frank M. Taylor Parliamentarian.

Central Texas Hemerocallis Society is planning for its June meeting a "Mini Display Show," placing single daylily blossoms in vials for holding Orchid blossoms. These vials will be placed on green Styrofoam.

HEMEROCALLIS GROWERS OF DALLAS

Loree Meagher

Since we will host the - 1975 and 1977 National, we are busy even today making ready for you. Those of us who will have our gardens on tour are remaking beds and pathways, so that you may see all the cultivars more easily. Personally, I have cut way back all the hedges and am adding another on the other side of the house so that traffic will move more smoothly. We have been saddened by the home going of two of our members in this New Year. First, Mrs. Tom Hughes, Sr., mother of our own Tom, and wife of "Daddy Tom." Then Mrs. Joe Greenwood, member of Big D, was buried recently. We send sincere sympathy to each of these fine families. Jay and Lucile Warner sustained a great loss when their home burned in November, Thankfully, most of her fine daylilies were saved. We sorrow with you, Warners. When Dr. Miller passed away, there was hardly a member who did not have some of his daylilies in their yard, or who had not benefited from his vast knowledge of hybridizing Hems. It was the unanimous desire of the members that we sponsor a lasting memorial to him. We are indebted to Bertie Ferris for handling it for us. In her quiet and efficient manner she worked out all the details and has had a medallion struck in his memory. It is a beautiful award and will be given to the person who hybridizes the nearest white tetraploid. We are grateful to be able to give this award in memory of a good friend, a wonderful hybridizer, and an all-around fine human being.

1973 daylily seedlings from selected parents,
\$10.75 per 100 or \$25 for 300.
Postpaid for a limited time.
Few miniature crosses same price.
J. L. Cruse, Jr.
Rt. 1, Box 69
Woodville, Texas 75979

TEAR OFF AND SEND TO:

Mr. Tom Hughes
Route 3, Box 127C
Mansfield, Texas 76063

Enclosed please find \$ _____ for a subscription to the two Newsletters not subsidized by the National Society.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

\$1.00 for Region 6 members - \$2.00 for non-AHS members and out-of-state.

Please check: Member - AHS _____ Non-member - AHS _____