



# The GVDS Gazette

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand Valley Daylily Society

February-April 2017

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February 2

The Way Forward  
Fredrik Meijer Gardens  
7:00pm

### March 2

Feel the Zeel  
Heidi Grasman  
Garden Crossings  
Fredrik Meijer Gardens  
7:00pm

### April 6

Nikki Schmith  
AHS National President  
Fredrik Meijer Gardens  
7:00pm

### May 11

Spring Auction  
Tallmadge Township Hall  
1451 Leonard NW 49534  
6:30pm

### 2017 Meeting Dates

June 1  
July 6  
August 3  
September 7  
October 5  
November 2  
December 7

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## THE WAY FORWARD

On February 2 at 7:00pm we will be meeting in our usual room at the Meijer Gardens in what may well be the most important meeting this year. We will be discussing what we'd like the club to do in the future.

Our wonderfully organized and hardworking Club Plant Chair Sharon VanderWilp and her equally dedicated assistant Claire Sheridan have spent weeks looking at the club plant program and coming up with some well thought out proposals to bring to the club. Including a fun and exciting way to win a daylily! You don't want to miss this.



## FEEL THE ZEEL!



Rainbow  
Marchella Cone-

Our special guest on March 2 at 7:00pm in our regular room at Meijer Gardens is Heidi of Garden Crossings in Zeeland. Heidi will once again be presenting to us the wonderful new plants we haven't yet had an opportunity to try in our gardens. If, like me, you can't wait to try those new plants but worry that they are 'just a pretty face' this is your chance to learn what Heidi personally grew and liked. This is a great chance to dream a pleasant dream of summer.



Gold Nugget Chick  
Charm

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This letter is about you, not “you” in the plural “us” way, but you personally. You with all your talents and interests and personality. You, sitting there reading this, are the whole reason we have a club. We are interested in you and would like to get to know you better. Which means we are asking you to get involved and share yourself with us.

What interests you? What are your skills? Are you bored with the annual club picnic and think to yourself why don't we go to a park and have ice cream sundaes instead? Do you love the picnic and want to decide where it will be held? Do you have a favorite restaurant where you wish the club Christmas Party would be held? Do you belong to a great church or other organization you'd like to bring some funding to by having them host the next GVDS auction – we pay \$100 to those who do. Are you a great baker and want to bring treats to the February meeting? Are you gifted in empathy and want to be the one who keeps up with club members who are under the weather and bring us their news?

The point I am making is that GVDS is wide open to you. You can make it what you want it to be, but you have to reach out and let us know what you personally are interested in. Not one single thing that we have done for years, needs to happen this year. We are Grand Valley Daylily Society. “Society” being the important word here. Join us, be a part of the fun in 2017. Don't hesitate, just send me an e-mail at: [carolydevries@gmail.com](mailto:carolydevries@gmail.com) and type in a few words to say what you'd like to impact.

I'm listening,

*Carol DeVries*

President GVDS

### SUMMER MEETINGS

Our summer meetings have traditionally been a chance to visit a member's garden. But over the years it has seemed that we continually revisit the same few members' gardens. So it occurred to me that it may be time to take a break from that, fun as it has always been, and do something different for our summer meetings. The question is then, what? A few things have occurred to me such as choosing a pretty park and having ice cream sundaes rather than a picnic. Or stopping by the Veteran's Home and visiting the garden we created there. Haven't been there in a while? Well our garden is still there and much loved. In fact one of my husband's customers held his wedding there. So, what sounds fun to you? Please drop me a line and suggest something. I'll put together a list of all the suggestions and we can vote on what we will do.



### HOSTING AN OPEN GARDEN

As winter's cold sets in you are perhaps thinking back with longing to the fun we had at the open gardens this past summer. These wonderful memories can only be made by having a member offer to host a meeting. Please consider extending the same hospitality that you enjoyed to your fellow members. Your garden does not need to be perfect, because no one's garden is. It doesn't even need to be full of daylilies, since the June meeting is before most daylilies will be able to bloom. Remember the summer meetings are not about showing off a showcase garden, it's about sharing your garden with fellow members. It's about fellowship not showmanship. We want to see your garden, because it is yours. We want to see what moves you, what you have a passion for, or even what you have time or strength for. It's about you, our fellow member, and about sharing. If you would be willing to host a meeting or have room to host the picnic, please contact me at:

[carolydevries@gmail.com](mailto:carolydevries@gmail.com). I will be happy to discuss how simple it is to host a meeting, and remember you do not need to cook to host the picnic. Simply have a yard large enough to hold all the chairs.

Thanks so much!

## BASKET CASE



In response to a letter received from the Region 2 Summer Meeting Planning Committee, GVDS members in attendance at the November, 2016 meeting voted to donate a basket for the Summer Regional to be held in the West Michigan area in July of this year. The Regional is called “Simply Michigan” and will bring daylily and gardening fanatics from many areas to Michigan. This basket will promote Grand Valley Daylily Society with our logo and website prominently displayed for all Regional attendees to see. One lucky attendee will be the winner of this basket.

We are looking for donations of daylilies, gift certificates, garden items—tools, garden art, daylily related home décor items—you know what gardeners and daylily fanatics like! “Simply Michigan” is the name chosen for the Regional so Michigan items are also welcome. Handmade items will make our basket unique. Also, the receptacle for these items need not be a basket. A garden related item would be a wonderful substitute for a typical basket. With the wonders of shrink wrap, almost anything will work and creativity is the goal.

Several donations have already been received and the donors will be acknowledged in a future newsletter. So far we have received a gift certificate to a daylily business, garden tools and a couple of Michigan theme daylilies, ‘Michigan Sunset’ and ‘Made in Michigan.’ Please consider donating something to make this “basket” attractive for Region 2 visitors in July.

Please bring donations to any meeting from now until May. Sharon VanderWilp has volunteered to collect the items and create the “basket” so please contact her with any questions, suggestions and to donate. She can be reached by email at [slvanderwilp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slvanderwilp@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at (616) 447-8998.

### GVDS NEW BOARD

Our officers for 2017 have been elected and are:

**Carol DeVries** – President—616-677-5530; carolydevries@gmail.com

Open position - Vice President

**Bruce Wickmann** – Treasurer—616-399-4907; bdwicks@gmail.com

**Nancy Sniff** – Secretary—616-455-2548; nsniff@gmail.com

**Robin Boyd-Hamilton** – Member at Large—517-852-0789; flamingo@bignet.net

Please congratulate these officers and offer your support as they again voluntarily take on the task of making this club the success it is.

As President, I am trying hard to insure that your needs are met and that the member news gets out in a timely manner. If you are aware of member news or see a need for club action, please contact me.

Keep in mind that the more information you can share the better I will be able to perform the requested action. Please do not assume that I am in the loop on every member’s health. Also, if you desire a change, please spell it out. But remember that I often get conflicting requests such as to lengthen breaks as well as shorten them. So, your asking does not always lead to my doing.

## THINK SPRING

Our Spring 2017 auction is still a few months away, but it is never too early to start thinking about which daylilies at the Spring auction we will want to add to our gardens. We have some wonderful daylilies in both the Auction and Door prize categories and this article concentrates on the first-year return category of Auction plants, as well as the sources from which they were purchased.

Our first supplier for 2017 plants is Bob Selman from Blue Ridge Daylilies in Alexander, North Carolina. This area is zone 6 but his daylilies are growing at 2,560 feet elevation above sea level—much colder than typical zone 6 areas—and they often experience erratic and unpredictable late and cold spring weather. Bob Selman's cultivars are well tested for late freezes into the spring and he does not continue to grow any cultivars that do not perform to his high standards. Additionally, Bob does not use greenhouses, shade cloth, or elaborate feeding systems. Instead, he concentrates on good soil and attention to the care of his daylilies to produce quality daylilies. His hybridizing focus has been on modern form daylilies with good branching and high bud counts. They must also open well and have good substance that holds up well.

We received and will be auctioning off several of Bob Selman's 2015 and 2014 introductions. A complete list will be printed in future newsletters, but here are just a few you might want to check out—'Asheville After Dark', 'Asheville White Winged Dove', 'Honky Tonk Barbie' and 'Wayfaring Stranger.' Also, if you need a "shot of sunshine" in this Michigan winter, you can see some stunning Blue Ridge mountain scenery as well as his daylilies at his website: [www.blueridgedaylilies.com](http://www.blueridgedaylilies.com)



Asheville After Dark



Creation Rejoices

Roth Daylily Farm, owned by Theresa Roth was our second source for our 2017 daylilies. Roth Daylily Farm is located in our same 5b growing zone in the central Illinois city of Peoria. Attendees of the 2016 Region 2 Summer Meeting had the pleasure of visiting Roth Daylily farm where they were overwhelmed by color and variety in her many daylily beds. Theresa grows 3,000 cultivars including all forms of daylilies—doubles, miniatures, UFs, and spiders and more. From this extensive collection, we purchased many great plants for the Spring 2017 auction. A few of the first year auction plants are these beauties from some of our favorite hybridizers—'Ashwood Smokey Joe' (Norris, R., 2005), 'Creation Rejoices' (Emmerich, 2007), 'Heavenly Dark Matter' (Gossard, R., 2008) and 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' (Brooker, 2005). More information can be found at [www.daylilyfans.com/roth/](http://www.daylilyfans.com/roth/)

The plants we received from both sources were very healthy as well as very hearty. Club plant growers have reported that they are growing very well for them. We expect the daylilies at this year's auction to be exceptional. Which ones caught your eye?

## LOOKING FOR DAYLILIES

Ginny Pearce is in search of one daylily cultivar: Lime Frost. If you grow it and would be willing to divide it, she would appreciate you contacting her. She is willing to purchase or trade for it.

## AUCTION LOCATION CHANGE



David's House Ministries let me know that they have hired an activities director and will be utilizing their meeting room more than in the past. Which means they are no longer going to be renting it out. It is with happiness for the increased fun they have planned for their residents that we accept that we won't be holding our Auctions or Christmas Parties there any longer.

We now begin the hunt to find a new place to hold the auctions, since May will rush up before we know it. Fortunately, I was able to secure the Tallmudge Township Hall for the May auction. In fact, as a one time gift to our club they will allow us to use it for FREE. Well you can't beat free, so I grabbed it.

Where in the world is Tallmudge and is Waldo there too? It's at 1451 Leonard St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534. Not as close to town as I would have liked, but not that far out either. It has a good-sized room and plenty of parking. The room is available to us for the entire day, so we can get in and set up earlier than usual and leave on our own schedule.



But the hunt is now on for our permanent auction location. So, we are asking for your help. We have been paying \$75 for the use of David's House, so it would be nice to find a location for around that amount. Robin sent out that wonderful spaced-aged survey to ask for your help – wasn't that a fun new thing? But we are still looking for more suggestions. I have spent hours already on this, so it would be so kind if you could help me by calling a place or two. Perhaps a church or a union that you belong to has a meeting room. Or perhaps you attended a function lately, and upon reflection, realize it would work for our auction. Just pick up the phone call them and ask if the room is free on the first Thursday in September and, if so, how much they would charge. Then drop me an e-mail with that information. I'd appreciate learning what you find out, even if it's a no since that is one less call I will have to make. Thanks for your help!

## DUES OVER DUE

Please remember that membership dues for the Grand Valley Daylily Society are due on January 1 of each calendar year. Not sure if you have renewed? Nancy Sniff brings the roster to each meeting and has that information for you. Those who do not renew their membership by the March meeting will be dropped from our mailing list and will no longer receive quarterly issues of the GVDS Gazette.

We don't want to lose touch with you. Please send in your GVDS membership renewal of \$8 for a single membership or \$12 for a family to Bruce Wickmann, 4430 62nd St, Holland MI 49423. Checks can be made out to "GVDS." We look forward to a fun year with you.

## GVDS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \_\_\_ \$8 individual \_\_\_ \$12 family X \_\_\_ years = \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Bruce Wickmann, 4430 62nd St, Holland MI 49423. Make checks payable to GVDS.

## REGION 2 SUMMER MEETING



This year's regional summer meeting is taking place right here in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This is a great opportunity for you to attend a regional meeting without having to travel to another location. You will enjoy visits to three private gardens and two commercial gardens. The advantage to registering for the summer meeting is that you are eligible to ride charter buses to the gardens and enjoy time with other daylily lovers from the region. And, of course, the bus captains always have some fun activities planned between stops. You will also enjoy a wonderful and lively auction, and a presentation by Nan Ripley of Walkabout Gardens.

There is a website full of comprehensive information about the Region 2 Summer Meeting. It includes a complete schedule, registration information and a list of individual gardens open before and after summer meeting that are not on the meeting tour schedule. Click on this link to find all the information: [Region 2 Summer Meeting](#)

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

I know you are probably still taking down the Christmas decorations and scarfing down the last Christmas cookies, so it seems funny that I would already be talking about the 2017 Christmas Party. But we need a location to hold it. In the past, we have had wonderful luck in finding restaurants that would serve us Christmas dinner at a reasonable price in a private room. However, those reasonably priced places go quickly at Christmas time when every club and business is looking to hold their party. If you are willing to be the Christmas Party Chair then you might want to book it sooner rather than later. Now is the time to volunteer to Chair the party. If you do chair it, you will be given a budget and allowed to plan it as you'd like. Want more information before you commit – just drop me a line and we'll chat.



### WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

The Grand Valley Daylily Society is a 501(c)7 non-profit organization organized to promote and encourage the development and improvement of the daylily and to increase interest in its use as a means of home and civic beautification.