



The GVDS Gazette

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand Valley Daylily Society

October-December 2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 5

Barb Balgoyen—Walter's Gardens
New and Noteworthy Perennials
Frederik Meijer Gardens
7:00pm

November 2

Becky Finneran
Smart Gardening for the Pollinator
Fredrik Meijer Gardens
7:00 PM

December 7

Christmas Party
Pietro's Restaurant
6:00pm—social hour
6:30pm—dinner served

2018 Meeting dates

January - no meeting

February 1

March 1

April 5

May 3 Auction - a week earlier than usual because
our usual date was not available

June 7

July 5

August 2

September 6 - Auction

October 4

November 1

December 6 - Christmas Party

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

What a tremendous blessing it has been to me to have the honor of being the club president during this interim period. But now that we have all made the adjustment to losing Barb and Ginny, we are primed and ready to enjoy sitting under some new leadership. So please consider running for either President or Vice President in 2018. You will have an easy start since the locations and speakers will be lined up and the amazing support of so many great project chairs.

So thank you all for your support and laughs, even when they were at my expense. I am looking forward to the coming year and all that the new board will do to make it fun for us!

- Carol DeVries

OVERLOOKED BUT OUTSTANDING PLANTS

On October 5 at 7:00pm, we welcome our area's premier wholesale grower of outstanding perennials - Walter's Gardens. Barb Balgoyen is the Technical Care Representative at Walters Gardens and will be presenting a program entitled "New and Noteworthy Perennials". After raising and growing thousands of plants in the test gardens, Barb is in the position to know what plants are really outstanding and yet for whatever reason are not commonly purchased at retail outlets. We are on the hunt for something new and interesting, but sometimes those brand new releases just do not live up to the hype. Here is a fresh approach for us, take a second look at plants that have proven themselves over the years and yet are still not commonly grown and so new to us. But we won't just be looking at pretty pictures, I understand that she will have handouts and a gift plant for all attendees.

You may want to arrive at Meijer Gardens a little early, so you can check out some of the Art Prize entries that will be on display in the Perennial Gardens and Front Lawn and are accessible for free without the need for a ticket to FMG.

WELCOME TO BECKY FINNERAN



Even if you are not a Master Gardener, Becky Finneran, is a name you will recognize from the years she wrote helpful gardening articles for the Grand Rapids Press. Becky, the Senior Horticulture Educator for MSU Extension, is a dynamic and humorous speaker, and will be sharing with us how to save our bees in her presentation entitled "Smart Gardening for Pollinators". We all are aware that our bee population is in crisis, but how much do we really know about how to help. This is our chance to gain insights into our gardening activities that can make a difference.

Join us on November 2 at 7:00pm in the meeting room at Frederik Meijer Gardens for this informative presentation by Becky.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

"There'll be parties for hosting" and the best one of all will be on December 7 at Pietro's Italian Restaurant. Social hour will start at 6:00pm. (Cash bar available) Dinner will be served family style (passing platters) at 6:30pm. Our party planner, Maryann Inman has asked Mrs. Claus to fix her delicious appetizers of Artichoke Florentine Dip and Meatballs & Ricotta Cheese, then for dinner a House Salad or Michigan Cherry Salad with the main course offerings of Spaghetti & Meatballs or Sweet Italian Sausage Penne, followed by a dessert of either Tiramisu or a Chocolate Chip Cannoli. The cost is \$14.00 for members; \$24.00 for non-members (which includes the tip). Instead of door prizes or a present exchange, we will be collecting unwrapped knitted or purchased items for the Santa Claus Girls. Reserve your spot by November 30 by sending your check (made out to GVDS) to Maryann Inman at 621 Schultz, Sparta MI 49345. Pietro's Italian Restaurant is located a 2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 (north turn off 28th Street just west of Breton.)



GVDS NEEDS YOU TO SPEAK



You, not the member sitting next to you, you are needed to be a speaker. Much as we enjoy bringing in speakers, some of the talks I remember the best are the ones that our members have given. There is something so valuable about hearing from a fellow member about their own experiences.

So why not you, and why not this year? Here are some ideas for you.

Did you attend the AHS Summer Meeting right here in Grand Rapids? Not all of us had that opportunity, and we'd love to see your pictures and hear about what you saw and did. And heck yes, tell us the funny thing that happened.

Not quite ready to share for a full half hour? How about 5 or 10 minutes? We would love to put together a meeting of some of our members taking turns telling us about their favorite daylily or hybridizer or something that works for them in their garden.

Want to be a garden speaker and wonder how to get started? Why not start in front of a group that already supports you?

If you are willing to share some of yourself with your fellow members, this would be a great year to do it. Please contact Carol DeVries at carolydevries@gmail.com or 616-915-9744 and we can chat about what interests you.

ROCKFORD FARMERS' MARKET WARP-UP

Before I share with you Susan Williams account of how the Rockford sale went, I wanted to commend her for the work she put into this sale. She was extremely well organized and thought of several good innovations such as colored tablecloths to match the color of the daylilies being offered. I realize that \$222 may not seem like much, but keep in mind that at \$3 and later 3 for \$5, that is over 100 daylilies sold. Given how the fall-like weather that weekend would be affecting our buyers and the fact that we have not been at the market for some time, this very impressive. It was also a great time for us to fulfill our club mission of sharing the love of daylilies.

Several of our booth visitors said they made a special trip, some from as far as Holland, to buy our daylilies. They had read about it in Michigan Gardener Magazine. Each quarter I send them a write up of our doings, but have never seen the magazine myself. If any of you receive this magazine, I'd love to see it.

After the sale was over, all the remaining daylilies were donated to the West Side beautification project. Many thanks to Marilyn Hawkins for the suggestion. They were a joy to work with and even came to our booth at the end of the day to pick up.

So here is Susan's take on this lovely day:

Our booth at the Rockford Farmer's Market was a great success! After an absence of several years, we had many comments from customers that they were happy to see us again. The sale made \$222.00 for the club. Two people mentioned they had seen our booth listed in the Michigan Gardener magazine, which we were all unaware of. Many thanks to my excellent volunteers: Maryann Inman, Sharon VanderWilp, and Sandy Olsen. Many thanks also to everyone who donated plants for the sale. All of the plants not sold were picked up by Marie Cimochowicz for a donation to SWAN, the West Side beautification project.



GVDS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The time has come to renew your GVDS membership. If the roster sent to you this Spring shows 2017 by your name that means your membership expires on December 31. Dues are only \$8 for a single membership and \$12 for family membership and can be paid to our treasurer Bruce Wickmann. If you don't renew you will no longer receive club notifications but more importantly you will be greatly missed

A SAILBOAT NEEDS A RUDDER...

.....Just like GVDS needs a Board of Directors. The first step in getting a Board is to set up a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee contacts all current Board members to determine their intention of continuing in their current positions, solicits membership for additional candidates and then runs the election at the November 2, 2017 monthly meeting. This job can be handled by one person or find a fellow club member and work as a team. The person who has handled this for the past six years is available to assist a new committee. Please contact Sharon VanderWilp (616-447-8998 or slvanderwilp@sbcglobal.net) with any questions or to indicate your willingness to help your club with this very important task.

A BOUQUET OF FAN CLUB THANK YOUS!

A huge thank you to Mari Zelaya and Claire Sheridan who were the Buyers for the 2017 Fan Club daylilies. Seems like such a simple task to get 7-8 (or as was the case this year, 12-13) daylilies in a bag for each Fanatic, but SO much leads up to this. We met in early March at a restaurant so we could discuss in person our plans. Thank you to the club (the the Board for the approval) for picking up the tab for our coffee and snack. We found this meeting to be very helpful. Claire and Mari then started shopping and spent hours researching sources and selecting daylilies. Orders were placed and then on Labor Day weekend, we gathered to unpack, divide and sort all these daylilies. This was our first experience with receiving clumps and the sources increase over the summer. The plants were very generous! Mari and Claire were beyond patient when I way underestimated the time this sorting would take.

When it became apparent that we were way past schedule, my husband, Ben, who had not only served the light breakfast I did have planned, cancelled his plans for the day, and whipped up a pesto turkey sub freaky fast a few hours later. Who needs Jimmy Johns!?!

Thank you to our sources, Rich Howard of CT Daylilies and Melanie Mason of North Country Dayliies. The daylilies they shipped were freshly dug and very generous. Both Melanie and Rich were a pleasure to do business with. I sent them a thank you card, but also promised that I would promote them to our club membership.

Finally, thank you to our twelve 2017 Fanatics who are now growing these wonderful daylilies. As the packing list states, "We hope you enjoy these daylilies!"

I am surrounded by wonderful people. Thank you!

Sharon VanderWilp, Fan Club Chair



A PEEK INSIDE OUR REGIONAL BASKET

At the November 2016 meeting, members approved our donation of a basket filled with gifts for gardeners to the Region 2 Summer Meeting which was being held in Grand Rapids in July of 2017. Sharon VanderWilp agreed to collect the donations and assemble the basket. Creative hands got busy. Savvy shoppers hit the stores. Generosity abounded!

To tie in to the name of the Summer Meeting, "Simply Michigan," we called our basket, "Smitten with the Mitten by the Grand Valley Daylily Society." It included Michigan daylilies, Michigan themed gifts as well as home and garden items.

In the Michigan daylilies category, Saundra Dunn generously donated a \$50 gift certificate to her Along the Fence Daylilies farm in Dansville, Michigan. Ginny Pearce potted up a nice clump of her own beautiful 2011 introduction, 'Creamsicle Cool.'" Sharon VanderWilp donated a pot of Michigan hybridizer, Nick Balash's 2011 introduction, 'Made in Michigan.' Both potted daylilies were in bloom during the event.

Our basket also included many wonderful Michigan gifts. Lori Hankinson donated a Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park Visitor's Package. Lori also included extra matching ribbon which was used to decorate the basket. Sharon much appreciated the trip to the craft store this saved her! Maryann Inman donated a jumbo Michigan mug and filled it with color-coordinated dish towels she hand knitted. The two orange ones had a daylily pattern and two blue ones had a State of Michigan pattern. Maryann also donated a framed puzzle of a map of Michigan, a boxed Michigan nature puzzle and a pair of Michigan mittens. The left hand was the UP and the right hand was the lower peninsula--how clever! Ben and Sharon VanderWilp's 93 year old friend, Bill Karpowicz, made a set of three wine cork trivets routed into the shape of the lower peninsula. Tim and Claire Sheridan donated a bottle of their delicious maple syrup tapped from their own maple trees. All of the daylilies, handmade items and Michigan gifts included a little Michigan shaped tag that stated the city of origin.

Speaking of handmade gifts, Armand Aronson made a beautiful garden trug of several different types of hardwoods with a rotating handle for the user's comfort. Ned and Rita Brown donated a lovely hand quilted pair of table runners. Rounding out the home and garden items was a daisy patterned metal side table generously donated by Nancy Sniff. A weeder, hand rake and kneeling pad was donated by Sharon VanderWilp and a garden cross was given by Maryann Inman.

Last but certainly not least, Lori Hankinson donated a very nice 5 cu. ft. ergonomic wheelbarrow into which most of the items were placed. Sharon VanderWilp reports that due to members' fantastic generosity, getting all the items arranged so they were all visible, was the biggest challenge to date in her basket assembling hobby!

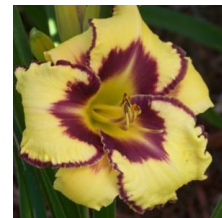
When Sharon delivered the basket to the hotel where the Summer Meeting was being held, the committee was very pleased with our donation and asked her to let everyone know that they "appreciated this more than we will ever know!" Thank you to all for your wonderful participation in this fund raiser for the American Hemerocallis Society.



ANNUAL DAYLILY SHOW RECAP

Steve Smith reports that our annual daylily show on July 8 at Frederik Meijer Gardens had over 900 visitors stop to enjoy the 400 daylilies brought in by GVDS members. This year's show was enhanced by the new banner purchased by our club to promote the daylily show and the use of a new cart to carry in flowers.

175 persons voted for their favorite flower from the on-scape daylilies. The winner was 'Jacki Kropf' (Mort Morss-2004). It is a 6" clear yellow flower with a dark plum eye and plum edge outlined in gold. 'Jacki Kropf' was entered by Lori Hankinson. This is the third year in a row Lori Hankinson has displayed the winner of the popularity vote.



63 youngsters came to the kids' activity table to make and take home a paper daylily from precut parts. A helping hand was given by club volunteers to guide the daylily construction.

Ginny Pearce and Doug Veurink brought in the majority of the 75 daylily seedlings on display. This area always gets attention with visitors asking, "How does one get all these different flowers?"

The Daylilies in Artistic Design (arrangements) were also a popular part of the show. This year's theme was "Fabulous Fifties and Sensational Sixties." Designs were judged and ribbons awarded by two certified design judges from the Michigan Garden Club. Ginger Smith won 5 blue ribbons for her arrangements. Newcomer Peggy Pike took first place in the novice class with her "Pink Lady Club" design. Daylily designs by Maryann Inman and Sharon VanderWilp drew high praises from the judges for excellent creations.

Next year's daylily show is tentatively scheduled for July 14. New construction at Meijer Gardens may alter the 2018 show date and location.

GVDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our officers for 2017 have been elected and are:

Carol DeVries – President—616-915-9744; 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—517-852-4049; spedk123@yahoo.com

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.

